



# CHELTENHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL

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**HEADTEACHER**  
Mr S Jefferies BA Hons MEd

10 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Keeping children safe in school and helping them focus on learning**

We have received a small number of comments throughout the day following the implementation of some changes to the use of electronic devices in school for students in Years 7-11. We have implemented these changes to ensure that during the school day, students only have access to our carefully filtered WiFi network (rather than VPNs or hot spots over which we can have no control) and approved apps which enhance their learning.

These changes strengthen our ability to fulfil the two main functions of a school: to enable students to learn and to keep them safe. Restricted access to the internet and apps prevents students from being distracted from their learning and discourages unsafe or unhelpful online activity. I would like to reassure you that there is no intention to restrict access to apps and their data outside of school times (i.e. before 9:00 am and after 3:00pm or over the weekend or holiday periods). All apps and their data are merely hidden during the school day – they are not deleted from the iPad – and should be fully available outside of school hours.

The vast majority of students have not experienced problems with their iPads outside of school and our IT Services team have worked with the small number of students who have experienced difficulties today to reassure them that their iPads should work normally outside of school hours. If your child's iPad is not functioning correctly outside of school hours, please let us know as this would indicate a problem with the iPad rather than the technical changes across the school. Our IT Services team are more than happy to assist students and can be contacted on [ITservices@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ITservices@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk).

Please be aware that devices that have not been provided via the school's iPad scheme may not be used in school unless they are used in accordance with our policies; this includes restrictions on networks that can be joined and the apps that can be used. The apps which are available during the school day are reviewed regularly and appropriate apps may be added to the approved list. For example, the Kindle app has been added today.

**Empowering lives through learning**

Teaching staff will continue to embrace technology by using iPads and tablets within the classroom where there is a clear benefit in doing so. However, in order to encourage the development of students' social skills, mobile technology is being restricted to use only in the classroom under the supervision of a teacher. Bournside is not alone in taking this approach and will join the growing number of schools where students enjoy the opportunity to socialise face-to-face with their peers, free of the often unconstructive influences of gaming and social media.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Jefferies', written in a cursive style.

**Mr Steve Jefferies**  
**Headteacher**