



**2023/2024**

Dear Families,

The Director, the Pedagogical Council and the General Council of the Gil Vicente School Group decided to prohibit the use of cell phones or other electronic equipment within the school in this academic year 2023-2024.

The decision is the result of a long process of reflection and consultation with the school community in the previous academic year (teachers, operational assistants, technical assistants and those in charge of education) and is a response to the growing concerns expressed by experts around the world about the harm the use of cell phones in schools, whether in the classroom or at recess.

Therefore, with the aim of improving academic performance and the learning environment in the classroom and reinforcing recess as a space of freedom, sharing and conviviality, students are prevented from handling and using cell phones (or other personal equipment for similar purposes) on the all schools in the Group. Students can bring their equipment to school, but it must remain unplugged in their backpacks.

The use of a cell phone is only permitted when it is expressly requested by the teacher as part of the teaching activity, and the teacher is responsible for its appropriate use.

The ban on the use of cell phones and other similar equipment does not prevent contact between students and their parents. When necessary, parents can send messages to their child by calling the general contact details of the respective Schools and students can, in case of strict necessity, contact their parents using the available telephone numbers.

In addition to reducing disruptions to learning inside the classroom, banning cell phones will make room for a more active, diverse and healthy recess. In addition to the various sports fields, students have access to “creative playground kits” with different games that they may require, and the Library now has longer opening hours, offering, in addition to books, magazines, films, music and access to computers with internet.

We count on the collaboration of all families to build a vibrant and active School.

For more information, we will make the most frequently asked questions and answers and the Group's arguments available, in due course, on the website [www.aegv.edu.pt](http://www.aegv.edu.pt)