

Cell Phone Tower Statement

The Bitney Prep Charter Council has heard concerns from a Bitney parent as to the potential health risk to students and staff from the construction of a cell phone tower near the campus.

The Charter Council took these concerns seriously, and council members have researched the latest opinions from the scientific community. While there are voices of concern, the great preponderance of science on the matter so far indicates that a serious risk does not exist.

The position of the Federal Communications Commission on this issue is clear and unequivocal. In one of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on their website they state that the exposure would “typically [be] thousands of times below safety limits.”

These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety.

The rest of this statement is on the next page, as well as a link to a full discussion of the FCC Policy on Human Exposure, updated as of November 24, 2015.

While the school encourages the free expression of differing views on important topics, and recognizes that scientific knowledge can always change in the light of new findings, the appropriate government agency has spoken. We are a publicly-funded charter school, and it would be an inappropriate use of our time and resources to challenge this statement or not to act in accordance with it.

In light of the clear policy of the FCC, the Bitney Charter Council will take no further action on this question.

Federal Communications Commission

<https://www.fcc.gov/engineering-technology/electromagnetic-compatibility-division/radio-frequency-safety/faq/rf-safety#Q16>

Frequently asked questions about the safety of radiofrequency (RF) and microwave emissions from transmitters and facilities regulated by the FCC

For further information contact the FCC's RF Safety Program at rf-safety@fcc.gov or 1-888-225-5322

ARE CELLULAR AND OTHER RADIO TOWERS LOCATED NEAR HOMES OR SCHOOLS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS?

As discussed above, radiofrequency emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits. These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that such towers could constitute a potential health hazard to nearby residents or students.

Other antennas, such as those used for radio and television broadcast transmissions, use power levels that are generally much higher than those used for cellular and PCS antennas. Therefore, in some cases there could be a potential for higher levels of exposure to persons on the ground. However, all broadcast stations are required to demonstrate compliance with FCC safety guidelines, and ambient exposures to nearby persons from such stations are typically well below FCC safety limits.