

15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### Our mobile phone expectations for the Academic Year 2024-2025

Our school rule on mobile phones has not changed: mobile phones are not permitted to be used anywhere in the Academy. If they are seen or heard, they will be confiscated.

#### Why is this our school rule?








Research suggests that mobile phones are distracting, contribute to peer issues, and overuse has a detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of young people. During school hours we want our pupils to be able to focus on their learning. During social times we want our pupils to enjoy spending time with their peers and engaging in conversations.

Mobiles should be stored in pupil bags during the school day. If a pupil needs to make urgent contact with home, they should report to their year hub and request a call is made.

All pupils are given a paper timetable to refer to, so they know which lesson they have and when. Pupils do not need to look at the Satchel One App during the school day.

Please note: some pupils are opting not to bring a school bag into school. If your child is holding their mobile phone or is tucking it into their school skirt for this reason, they will be asked to hand it over in line with our 'See it, hear it, take it' policy. The solution? Bring a school bag into school to store your mobile phone in.

#### Our approach to mobile phones:

| Phone stays in your bag throughout the day  | Phone is seen or heard by a member of staff – pupil hands it over.   | Phone is seen or heard by a member of staff – pupil REFUSES to hand it over.   |
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| No further action – thank you for following our school rules<br> | You will receive a 'misuse of mobile phone' log but NO SANCTION <br>Phone will be locked away safely for the rest of the day. <br>You will get your phone back at the end of the day.  | You will receive a -1 point for 'refusal to hand over mobile phone'. <br>You will receive a 30 minute detention. <br>Persistent refusal may result in further consequences  |

#### Support

If your child's mobile phone is seen or heard, the following steps will take place:

- The staff member will request the mobile phone is handed over.
- Confiscated mobile phones will be taken to the Year hub and locked securely in the safe.

- A 'misuse of mobile phone' point will be logged on Satchel One. **There will be no negative value attached to this log.** It is recorded so you are aware your child has been using their mobile phone in school.
- Pupils will receive their phone back at the end of the school day by visiting their Year hub at 3:00pm and giving their name. They will get it back on the same day on every occasion it is confiscated if handed over when requested.
- We will monitor the number of occasions pupils have their phone confiscated. Persistent offences may require further action.

**Why?** We want to give our pupils the opportunity to put right their mistake. Handing over their phone without argument or confrontation demonstrates taking ownership for their actions and will be rewarded by the phone being returned to them that day.

### **Consequences**

If your child refuses to hand over their mobile phone the following steps will take place:

- Your child will be issued a -1 negative point for 'Refusal to hand over mobile phone'.
- Your child will be set a 30-minute detention.
- Repeated refusal may result in further consequences including a day in Reflection.

**Why?** Our behaviour system is built on fairness and consistency. It would not be fair or consistent to allow some pupils to actively choose not to follow our school rules without a consequence for doing so.