



25th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mobile Phones

Mobile phones and apple watches are becoming an increasing issue in school. We fully appreciate the importance of a mobile phone / apple watch to a young person but we are experiencing a growing number of students who are using their phones / watches inappropriately during the school day; this will not be tolerated and sanctions will be applied.

Students **must not** have their phones out during lessons, breaktimes, in the toilets or in the changing rooms and apple watches need to only show the time. It is forbidden to take photographs of themselves or others, including members of staff, on school site. The videoing of anyone (student or staff) is also prohibited. We do understand that there are instances when a student may need to contact home and if this is necessary, then they are allowed access to a phone which is located in reception. Should the matter be of a sensitive nature, then we are able to provide greater privacy as required.

We recognise that mobile phones and apple watches can be used to enhance the curriculum, through the use of revision and homework apps but the use of these in school time would be entirely at the discretion of the member of staff.

The greatest issue is around students contacting parents about incidents at school before the member of staff involved has been able to deal with this. We ask that students **do not contact home until we have dealt with an incident** because this can lead to incorrect information being shared and makes it difficult to investigate any alleged events. It impacts on our ability to effectively manage issues which can and do arise during the school day.

There have been some cases where a student has been on the phone to their parent, guardian or other family member, at the same time as a member of staff has been trying to speak to them, usually regarding something that has taken place. This is **totally unacceptable** and staff will not engage in a three way conversation in this manner. The member of staff will speak to the parent once an incident has been resolved in order to furnish them with the full details.

The sanctions for mobile phone / inappropriate apple watch use are incremental:

- 1) First instance – mobile phone will be confiscated and the student can collect it from the office at the end of the day
- 2) Second instance – mobile phone will be confiscated and parents / guardians will be required to collect it from the office before it can be returned. Please note that collection will not be possible after 4.00 pm
- 3) Repeated instances – will result in the student handing in their phone at the start and end of each day



- 4) Defiance around the phone – the behaviour policy will be applied when a student is defiant around their mobile phone, which could include removal from lesson or break, internal exclusion and potentially a fixed term exclusion

Mobile phones do have a place in our lives but we need to clear about their use in schools; the rules around phones are for the safety of all and to allow staff, within the Academy, to be able to do their roles effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C F Hewerdine

(Headteacher)