

ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are to be banned on school premises as of 19th February 2024.

Whilst we understand pupils do bring their phones with them for use to contact you, we have a zero tolerance of their use in school. We have noticed there has been an increase in pupils using their phones on the school premises and in lessons. This is unacceptable and in breach of the school rules. I am writing to you to make you aware of this matter, and to ask for your support in ensuring your child clearly understands the rules and new sanctions we will use if we see them using their phone, vapes or other electronic devices on the school premises.

The main reasons for not allowing mobile phones/electronic devices in school is to ensure children focus on their studies and to make sure teaching is not disrupted. The impact this can have on your child's learning and the learning of others is too detrimental to continue pupils having mobile phones in school.

We wish to ensure robust safeguarding of pupils and staff from potential bullying and being recorded without permission. It is also important to give young people a "tech break" to reduce the pressure to constantly be connected. The benefits will no doubt improve your child's well-being and engagement in school.

As you are aware the school policy is to confiscate mobile phones that are seen in school and return them at the end of the day, however now all pupils must hand all items in before entering the school. This will be done in a safe and secure manner in which will be handed back at the end of the school day.

The expectations for pupils are as follows:

- Do not use your phone anywhere on the school premises
- Make sure your mobile phone is handed in at the beginning of the day
- Ear pods and electronic devices to be handed in at the beginning of the day
- Sanctions have been changed to the following:
- If a pupil does not hand in all devices, they will not have permission to enter the school, and parents and carers will have to collect
- If a pupil hides such items and is seen in school with banned items, then an immediate suspension of 3 days will be put in place and parents/carers will have to collect the pupil. This will increase to a 5 day suspension if repeated and parents and carers will have to ensure all items remain at home before the pupil can return to school

It is important your child is made aware that the school has a searching and screening policy, and will be in place on your child's entry to school via a 3 stage process.

Stage 1 Outside the school external gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taxi drop off• Meet and Greet with DSLs outside• Warm welcome to our school• Reminder of our expectations and directed to stage 2
Stage 2 Stairwell entrance and exit to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inside the building hand over all personal items which will be zipper bagged up (Items that must be handed in: mobile phones, air pods, cans of pop)• Pupils encouraged to hand over - once successful they will proceed to stage 3• If unsuccessful pupils home will be contacted for support• Wand before entering the bottom corridor: Pupils will be scanned as they leave stage 2 and enter stage 3
Stage 3 Sports Hall Canteen LRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast• A warm breakfast available for all pupils before form time dismissal

I am sure if everyone is clear and understands the rules and expectations, it will not prove to be a problem. This new policy is strictly zero tolerance and will certainly benefit your child's well-being and engagement in education and as a school, to continue to create a safe, orderly and calm environment for our pupils to nurture learning and be successful in school.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, staff will be available to assist after 2.15pm (end of the school day).

Thank you for your continued support on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Lewis
Headteacher

