

December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: **Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Rule Reminder**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and their parents/carers about the rules regarding mobile phones in school. The rules have not changed but some students and their families do not appear to be clear about what they are. Students **are** allowed to carry phones, **switched off**, in school. **They are not allowed to use their phone on school premises at any time, including before and after school (e.g. when staying for a revision session, club or detention).** These rules are in place for safeguarding reasons. The only exception to this is if their teacher needs them to use their phone in a lesson and this will be done under the direction and supervision of that member of staff e.g. for research, as a calculator or to photograph a piece of work.

Smart watches are internet and camera enabled and therefore pose the same concerns as mobile phones in terms of safeguarding. Students are allowed to wear **analogue watches only** and the same rules as mobiles phones apply to any smart watches; **they are not allowed to wear their watch on school premises at any time, including before and after school (e.g. when staying for a revision session, club or detention).**

There have been some incidents in school where students have contacted parents/carers rather than staff when an issue has arisen in school. During school hours we need to be able to carry out our duty of care, and students need to see the adults around them immediately so we can ensure everyone is safe at all times. Contacting parents/carers can delay a response and can lead parents/carers to think we are not carrying out our duty of care when we have, in fact, not been made aware that there is a concern. Students can see their Head of Learning or Mrs Clish in student reception if they need to contact you during the school day.

We are also disappointed to report that some parents/carers are texting their child during school hours. We must insist that parents/carers refrain from this as it encourages students to “check” their phone. If you need to get a message to your child please phone the school and we will get a message to them, or you can text them after school hours.

Students who are found **using their phone** in school or **wearing a smart watch** will have it confiscated and you will need to come into school to collect it. Repeat offenders will receive a lifetime mobile phone/watch ban, and we reserve the right to check that your child does not have their phone or watch with them in school.

May I thank you for supporting us in ensuring that all our students remain safe in school by adhering to these rules.

Yours faithfully,



Miss P. Dodd
Assistant Headteacher