



AN OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Mr C Horrocks

Address
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Executive Principal

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to inform you of a significant change to school policy on the use of mobile devices on school premises. The changes are detailed in the accompanying policy statement which is attached to this letter.

Since our return to school in September, we have been working hard to improve standards of behaviour and, by and large, we have been extremely pleased with the response from the vast majority of our students. A notable reduction in the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions for this autumn term compared to last year's is one clear indication that students have embraced the school's drive towards more positive behaviour choices.

In an effort to maintain our momentum in our pastoral work, we believe that this is the appropriate time, therefore, to introduce a ban on mobile device use during the main school day. We have dealt with a number of pastoral issues both last academic year and since September, which we know have originated or escalated quickly from negative use of social media. In addition, when negative behaviour is taking place we have the added concern that pupils with phones out begin to capture images and transmit those to others.

Therefore, we propose that from Monday 18th December, students will be permitted to bring mobile phones, but before they enter the school building they must be switched off and placed in the bottom of their school bag. Once students step out through the main door at the end of the day they will once again be permitted to switch them back on. Students will no longer be able to use phones at break or lunch. The policy attached gives full details of the changes which will be implemented and the accompanying sanctions should students choose to contravene the new rules. I am sure that you will be reassured by the fact that your children will still have their phones to and from school enabling you to contact them in an emergency situation.

The changes will come into force from Monday 18th December to allow students a week before we break up for Christmas to become accustomed to the new practices. Full sanctions will be imposed following Christmas, on our return in January 2018. I am sure that many students will find our decision unpopular, however, on grounds of health and safety and to ensure better conduct around school this is a timely and necessary step. We have consulted local secondary school partners and the local police to ascertain a view on our proposed policy changes. It has become clear to us that our current policy is out of step with current practice for most schools. Our decision, therefore, brings us closely in line with the most common and current practice.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns you may have about the details of my letter please do not hesitate to contact school to ask to speak with either myself or Mr Harrison.

Yours Sincerely

C Horrocks
Executive Principal

