

JME/aja



21 July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy from September 2017

Similar to other schools locally and nationally we are concerned about the increasing use and misuse of mobile phones. We accept that many parents want their children to have a mobile phone in school, so that they feel safe about their journey to and from school and we would wish to support this. However research is suggesting too much screen time is not good for young people. There is strong evidence that young people are distracted from their learning by the use of social media, which could jeopardise their academic prospects and GCSE exam results; the temptation to respond to messages and alerts in lessons is too great! Being without a mobile phone while working is also good preparation for the world of work.

Following discussion with staff, parents and students, we are introducing a **Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy** from September 2017. Students will be informed about the policy and the consequences of not following it in assemblies and tutor time this term. For your part we ask you to **discuss this code of conduct with your child and not phone your child on their mobile between the hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm**. If there is an urgent and important message please phone our reception: Milton Keynes 341700.

These are our revised rules around mobile phone usage:

1. The Academy is not responsible for loss, theft or damage of mobile phones
2. **Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight in school bags or lockers during the hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm**. Any headphones or earphones should also be out of sight during the school day
3. Mobile phones should not be visible in changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to other students or staff
4. Mobile phones are banned from all examinations, including mocks
5. Mobile phones should not hold any files which contain violent, degrading, racist or pornographic images
6. Mobile phones should not be used to take a picture, make a video or audio recording of a member of staff/student
7. Mobile phones should not be used to make personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person
8. Any breach of these rules will lead to confiscation of the phone. Confiscated phones will be stored in a lockable safe in the year team rooms. Students will be able to collect them at the end of the Academy Day unless the phone has been used to commit an offence
9. Persistent inappropriate use will lead to students not being allowed to bring their phones to the Academy for a fixed period or not at all

Our **Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy** will now be referred to and be a part of our Home School Agreement. If you have any questions about our policy and code of conduct, please contact me at the Academy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Mackie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator.

Jeanette Mackie
Senior Vice Principal