

22 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Changes to mobile phone policy

I write to inform you that from Monday 1st November, after half term, our Local Advisory Board and Senior Leadership Team have made the decision to change our school policy surrounding the use of mobile phones during the school day. I have included the updated section from our behaviour policy and underlined the change below:

'If mobile devices are brought to school, they are the student's responsibility. Mobile phones are only allowed to be used under the discretion of a member of staff. At all other times they must be switched off and in a bag. Students who choose not to follow protocol will have the device confiscated and placed into the main office until the end of the school day. There may be occasions when parents are asked to come and collect the electronic device on their child's behalf. The Academy accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to such electronic devices. It is the responsibility of parents and students to ensure their electronic devices are properly insured.'

This policy change has not been taken lightly and this is partly down to the clear advantages that personal electronic devices bring to education and how commonly mobile devices are used in our everyday lives. However, despite their advantages, our staff spend a disproportionate amount of time dealing with issues that relate to the inappropriate use of mobile phones and their associated applications.

Your child's form tutor has discussed this policy change with your child however we would appreciate your support in checking that they are clear. I've given a couple of key points to focus on in the conversations that you have with them below:

- If a mobile is brought to school they must be kept in bag/pocket and switched off.
- The mobile device cannot be used on corridors or at social time for any reason unless they have permission from a member of staff.
- They can be used for learning activities during lessons under the discretion and supervision of the classroom teacher.
- They can be used to contact home in emergencies under the discretion and supervision of a member of staff. Contact home can be made via telephones in the main office or via the Year Group Teams.

Should you require any further detail or support on this matter please contact me via email (bhendren@workingtonacademy.org). Otherwise, I would like to thank you for your support on this matter.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Hendren
Assistant Headteacher