



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish



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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

13th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to previous correspondence from Mr McGarry I am writing to you with regards to the schools policy around the use of mobile phones and electronic devices such as air pods etc.

You may be aware that there has been much publicity in the press about Government proposals regarding the use of mobile phones in schools. There is an increasing amount of evidence that suggests that mental health and academic outcomes are compromised when pupils are often on their phones, not to mention the increasing pressure on social media platforms to better regulate who is accessing the platforms and the content or feed that children and young people are exposed to. As a consequence of this we, as a school, have been reviewing our policy on mobile phone use and our expectations.

It is in no doubt that mobile phones are here to stay and we want to help educate pupils about using them responsibly, at the right time in the right way. As things stand we have no intention of banning them outright as some schools have, we would rather educate and support pupils to help them make better choices.

It is with this in mind that we are having a full re launch of our 'not seen or heard during the school day' rule. Pupils should know that mobile phones (including air pods or similar) are not allowed to be used routinely during the school day. If they are seen or heard, or a pupil is believed to be using one, they will be asked to hand their phone over and they can collect it at main reception, or from the relevant member of staff at the end of the day prior to them going home. This will be logged on Class Charts for you to see. If this is a repeat issue in the week then on the 3rd occasion a pupil will be issued with a detention. Persistent breaches with this may mean that your child either has to hand their phone in each day as a matter of routine, they may go on report, or they may be withdrawn from lessons for the persistent defiance and disruption that is being caused. But we sincerely hope it will not come to this and if this does apply we will be in contact with you in any case. For further information in relation to mobile phones and or air pods, please see our mobile phone policy which can be viewed on the schools website.

We do appreciate that we ask pupils to use their phones to check Class Charts and as a learning tool in some lessons, and we want to support pupils in using their phone responsibly in the right way, at the right time, in the right place. In support of this, pupils will be allowed to check timetables and other Class Charts information during tutor time, at the discretion of their tutor. Pupils may also be permitted to use their phone in a lesson, but this will be only at the request of their subject teachers to access a particular learning platform. Pupils should not have their phones out, phones should not be seen or heard in lessons, on the corridors or anywhere else on site, including outside over break and lunch. Any pupil breaching this will be asked to hand their phone over as mentioned earlier. These rules also apply to air pods/headphones or other in ear electronic items, unless there is a particular SEND or medical need, with evidence, and this has been discussed with the relevant HOY and our SENDCO.

For those pupils who always make positive choices and never have any issues or consequences in relation to using a mobile phone we will be increasing the rewards offered to pupils. These rewards will be feature within the end of term rewards celebrations, more information about this will be shared with pupils nearer the time.



Can I also take the opportunity to thank the vast majority of our pupils who abide by our motto of 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' in all that they do in school, every day. Pupils come to school on time, ready to learn and engage positively and it is delightful to see so many of our young people engaging with us in this way. There are however, a small number of pupils who still arrive late, or without the correct uniform, specifically without a tie, blazer or in trainers or in a small number of cases without equipment, specifically a pen. Please can we ask that you support us as a school and your child in helping them get ready the night before so they are not late and ensure that they have full uniform and equipment in line with their timetable the next day. We would also welcome support with pupils wearing skirts at an appropriate length, please talk to your child about not rolling their skirt up to ensure that their uniform is smart and suitable for school, please remind them that this will also be challenged by members of staff and may result in negative points appearing on their class charts if there are concerns.

We have listened to pupil voice about coats and blazers and during the colder months we are allowing pupils to wear coats in school should they feel cold but this should not be at the expense of a school blazer, this is a compulsory piece of school uniform and pupils are expected to wear them as a matter of routine.

If you recall it was about this time last year that we introduced the 'lates' detention and whilst it was met with some resistance to begin with, as these things often are and it is pleasing to report that the vast majority of pupils are now on time for school and for lessons. Thank you for your support with this important aspect of school life, it is really appreciated. Working in partnership in this way ensures the best outcomes for all of our young people and that they feel rightly proud of their achievements throughout their time in school.

All of the information in this letter will be shared with pupils during year assemblies in the coming week and the updated mobile phone policy is available on the website.

Should you have any queries relating to any of this information please do not hesitate to contact your child's HOY /AHOY in the first instance.

We are hopeful that with this renewed emphasis we can refocus efforts in school for the benefit of all.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs V. Ashworth
Assistant Head Teacher