



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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Campus Whitehaven, Red Lonning, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8UG

Head Teacher: Emma Jackson

Dear Parents and Carers

26 February 2024

Smart Device/Mobile Phone Policy

You may have seen in the media over the past months how the use of smart devices and mobile phones in schools can affect learning within the school and how their use can lead to bullying and inappropriate web access. There are also deep concerns being raised about the effect smart devices/mobile phones have on children's ability to socialise with each other. It is difficult to monitor any smart devices in the same way we can with school IT systems, students are using them to take photographs and video situations without consent which compromises the safety of all our students.

I am therefore writing to advise you and ask for your support of this change to our smart device/mobile phone policy.

From Monday 4th March 2024 for the safety of all our students, smart devices/mobile phones are to be kept in pupil's bags and switched off whilst on school premises. The term Smart Device/Mobile Phone applies to mobile phones, smart watches, iPads, and tablets.

Please note 6th form students may use tablets or laptops during their private study periods as part of their learning.

We understand the need to safeguard your children travelling to and from school, but a smart device/mobile phone for communication purposes is not needed during the school day.

Any smart devices/mobile phones being used, seen or heard by any member of staff during the school day will be confiscated **immediately** regardless of whether this is being used or not and returned to the pupil's parent, after 3.30pm (Mon – Wed) and after 2.30pm (Thursday and Friday).

Please note: St Benedict's Catholic High School is not liable for loss or damage.

Failure to hand over a device will be dealt with in line with our discipline/behaviour policy and may lead to time within our reflection room. Persistent failure may result in suspension from school.

A member of the office staff will securely store the confiscated phone and a message will be sent via Edulink to inform parents.

The following sanctions will apply: -

- For a first offence - Confiscation until the end of the day (Parents to collect)
- For a second offence - Confiscation until the end of the week (Parents to collect)
- For a third offence - A meeting will be arranged between parents and a member of Senior Team to discuss a solution going forward.

Such a confiscation is in line with Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

The safety and well-being of all our students is at the heart of this policy change and your support, as always, is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Emma Jackson
Headteacher



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