



An Active Learning Trust School



14 March 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to highlight some changes we are making to our mobile phone policy.

Here at Neale Wade Academy, we recognise that mobile phones are an integral part of our lives now and for young people in particular, they are an object of huge significance. I know that from a safety perspective, parents want their children to bring a phone to school and many of our students have their bus tickets stored on them.

I am however firmly of the opinion that during the school day they are a distraction and result in students not focusing fully in lessons. The temptation to take photos or record videos is too great for some students and this has resulted in the college having to put sanctions in place. From Monday 20 March we will be taking a more robust approach to dealing with the distractions caused by phones and their inappropriate use in school.

As previously, phones must be switched off and stored in students' bags during the school day. Students will not be allowed to carry their phone in their trouser, shirt or coat pockets. Phones will be confiscated if students are seen to be carrying them in this way.

A first offence will result in the phone being handed back at the end of the college day. A second offence will result in the phone being confiscated and parents will be asked to collect it. The phone will not be given back to the student. A third offence will result in a meeting being held at school with a middle leader.

If students are concerned that their phone may get damaged in their bag, they should store it in an appropriate container. Please note that the school will not accept liability for any phone lost or damaged on the school premises.

If a student does not hand over their phone when asked, staff will then deal with that in line with the college behaviour policy and appropriate sanctions will be put in place. Over the course of this week, assemblies will be held for each year group, where this change to school policy will be shared and the reasons why.

Our aim here is not to be draconian but to ensure that school is a safe and distraction free environment for our young people to learn and grow in. If you need to contact your child during the college day, please contact the college office and a message will be passed to them.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Horn", written in a cursive style.

Mr G Horn
Principal