



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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1 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter dated 19 April 2022, which included a plea for your support with the unauthorised use of mobile phones during the school day, I feel that I need to ask for your help again after a recent increase in the number of cases of mobile phone confiscation over the last couple of weeks.

As you are aware, I would much prefer a situation whereby no pupil came into school with a mobile phone, but I completely understand that you want your child to have a mobile phone for safety reasons whilst they travel to and from school. If you want this for your child, I politely request that you have a conversation with them to explain how important it is for you that they only contact you on **their way to** and **from school**.

In other words, they:

- **MUST TURN THEIR MOBILE PHONE OFF** *when they walk into school, and*
- **ONLY TURN IT BACK ON AGAIN WHEN THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES**

This is the **only** way you can be sure they **will not** have their mobile phone temporarily confiscated.

I make this request for a number of reasons: -

- So that **ALL** pupils comply with the school policy on the unauthorised use of mobile phones and therefore do not receive the sanctions that go along with this.
- So that you do not have the inconvenience of coming to school to collect the mobile phone.
- So that pupils are able to concentrate on their school day, instead of being distracted by messages or social media posts (they can be terribly distracted by this).
- So that both pupils and staff are protected against unauthorised audio or video recordings which subsequently appear on social media. Unfortunately, we have experienced examples of both this year on TikTok. These videos can be extremely offensive and upsetting to the individuals who feature in them.
Please read a joint statement by the presidents of the Headteacher Unions [here](#).

I would therefore ask you to support us in sending a very clear message to your child, please tell them:-

- They **must not use their mobile phones** to contact you during the school day. Instead, they must go to Pupils Services who will contact you on their behalf.
- If **you** need to contact them during the school day, please either send a message via Synergy, or an email to enquiries@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk or telephone the school office (01942 728651). We will then get the message to your child as soon as is practicable.

If your child does not follow the very clear school procedures on mobile phone use and uses it during the school day, they must expect it to be confiscated for the reasons outlined above.

The only exception to our mobile phone policy would be in very rare circumstances if students are given explicit permission to use their mobile phone by their teacher. An example was earlier this year when we used two-factor authentication to log in to the computers following the cyber-attack.

It is such a shame that I have to write this letter when pupil behaviour and conduct around school is typically excellent and the vast majority of pupils comply with our school rules by never using their mobile phone during the school day.

However, if you could reinforce the message contained within this letter with your child at home, hopefully it will reduce the amount of time spent by staff reminding students about their inappropriate use of mobile phones and subsequent confiscation. It would also reduce the burden on parents to come into school to collect them and the associated difficulties this creates, as the school office closes at 4.00pm.

Thank you for your continued support, which is really appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "M. J. Duminan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher