



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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4 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter on 8 September 2023 where I explained that pupils **MUST NOT** have their mobile phones turned on whilst in school, I feel that I must write to you again.

I am very disappointed to report that over the last 2 weeks we have had several instances of pupils taking images of teachers and pupils. Not only should students **not** have their mobile phones switched on during lessons, but they **MUST NEVER** be used when that person is not aware that images are being taken.

This behaviour will not be tolerated and I would very much appreciate it if you would reinforce the following information to your child:-

Unauthorised use of mobile phones during the school day: 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 in previous years. 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 and a news item on the BBC [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 (or for any other reason). Instead, they must go to Pupil Services who will contact you on their behalf.
- If you need to contact them during the school day, please either send 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 allow access in school would be in very rare circumstances if students are given explicit permission to use their mobile phone by their teacher. An example happens at the start of the year (next week) when we use two-factor authentication to log in to the computers as a security measure. Even then, we have contingency plans for pupils without mobile phones.

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 always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'M.J. Dumin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher