



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

Rookery Avenue,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield,  
Wigan, WN4 9PF  
Telephone: 01942 728651  
Email: [office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk)  
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>  
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican  
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

8 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We have enjoyed a wonderful first week back in school and I sincerely hope that it has been a good start to the new school year for your child.

This letter is primarily for Y7 parents/carers, as they are getting used to our school routines, but it also serves as a timely reminder to all other parents/carers.

This letter is to ask for your help with a couple of issues. The first is the **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](mailto: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.

The second issue is **bus transport**:

It is important to point out that we have no control over the bus services. TfGM co-ordinate the school bus services; they don't run the services, but they do provide funding for bus operators to provide the services. Whenever we receive a complaint from parents about the bus services, we always pass those complaints onto TfGM, but this is one complaint being made by the school. For example, we have complained multiple times about capacity issues. It may be much more effective if parents complain **directly** to TfGM, so that there are a much greater number of complaints being sent in. I can assure parents that we share your frustrations. You may also wish to read about the Bee Network starting from 24 September 2023 on their website, which also contains the 'Contact Us' link at the bottom, which you would use to make a complaint. You can access this page by clicking [here](#).

Could I again ask that parents who drop off/pick up their children by car to only use the designated place at St Oswald's Church Car Park on St Oswald's Road. We have received several complaints from residents who cannot access their own driveways as parents are blocking them by parking on the pavements on the way to St Oswald's Church Car Park. We understand that by parking in the designated place it will add to your journey time, but surely this is a price worth paying to ensure the safety of everyone in the school vicinity.

We are delighted that 92% of parents have now accessed our new MIS (Arbor), could I please urge the remainder of parents to log in and access it regularly to support your child's education. Please ensure that you allow 'push notifications' on your mobile phones so that you instantly receive our messages. If your child is struggling with any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to get in contact and we will do our very best to help.

Thank you for your continued support, which is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



**M J DUMICAN**  
**Headteacher**