

Our Lady's Catholic College

Learn, live, love together in a caring Catholic community



23rd June 2023

Dear parents and carers

Mobile Phone Policy

Next week is the beginning of our new mobile phone policy with the complete ban on mobile phones from 8.40am to 3.05pm. This is the current policy in over 90% of schools in England and every school in the local area. **Mobiles should be kept switched off and in their bags all day and there will then be no possibility of immediate confiscation.** For this letter and policy any smart device is included under the term 'mobile phone'.

You can read the full policy in the accompanying attachment or on the website but just to summarise the rules **from Monday 26th June**, so you and your child are clear, there is a summary below.

We have run several parental meetings this week and have listened to the concerns that you as parents and carers have expressed. As a result of input from the meetings, we have modified our initial policy and will operate this for the rest of this academic year in this trial period; this will be reviewed again before we confirm our full mobile phone policy in September.

Summary

- If a student is spotted with a mobile phone, at any point in the school day, it will be confiscated and kept secure until 4pm where we would ask a parent or trusted adult to collect from the school reception.
- The student will receive an hour detention that night finishing at 4pm.
- You will be contacted by text and through Synergy to inform you of this; we would ask you to put plans in place for this to avoid any further complications arising from a failure to collect.
Students with a significant medical need, such as diabetes, where they use their phone app to monitor their condition will be exempt from these arrangements.
- If for any reason it is not possible for a parent or trusted adult to collect the phone at 4pm, then it will be kept secure overnight and will be given back to a parent or trusted adult at 4pm on the following night.
- If you have significant safeguarding concerns regarding your child going home, without a mobile phone, please let us know and then we will ensure that a basic temporary phone is given to the student with 2 emergency numbers that they can input into the phone and use until the following day when they will hand the basic temporary phone back in at 8.40am.
- If a parent or trusted adult is still unable to collect the phone on the second night at 4pm, due to work commitments, then they should contact Mrs Hartley at e.hartley@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

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Having listened to concerns from parents and carers, until the end of this academic year we will not keep student phones that are not collected by parents on a Friday night, over the weekend but will insist that the phone is given over to the school on Monday and kept overnight on Monday to be collected by the parent on Tuesday at 4pm in the normal way.

Whilst we have had some concerns expressed, the overwhelming feedback from parents and carers has been positive and the key message that I would ask you to make clear to your child is:

Mobiles should be kept switched off, and in their bags all day, and then there will be no possibility of immediate confiscation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding mobile phones, please contact your child's progress leader (PL) or pastoral support officer (PSO).

Many thanks for your support

Des Coyle
Deputy Headteacher

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