

WALTON HIGH SCHOOL



PROUD TO BE A PART OF



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Headteacher: Mr A Leese BA (Hons)

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5th February 2024

Dear parent/ carer,

In October, the Department for Education published guidance for schools on the potential problems caused by mobile phones, in particular that they can become immensely distracting in the classroom for both pupils and their teachers. The Secretary of State for Education also announced that schools should develop and implement an approach that ensures "mobile phones are never a barrier to learning or a cause of disruption".

Our Mobile Phone Policy states simply that the use of mobile phones during school hours is forbidden for students and that phones must not be seen or heard. This is extended to the use of ear-bud style headphones which can be linked to mobile devices. If phones are seen in school, students will have the device confiscated for the remainder of the school day and taken to the house office for collection at 3.15 pm. In the unlikely event that a student refuses to hand their phone over, this will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour policy and sanctions issued accordingly. Persistent breaches of the Mobile Phone Policy will result in phones only being handed over to parents/ carers.

All students will be reminded in assemblies and during tutor time about the Mobile Phone Policy prior to February half term. The easiest way to ensure the policy is followed is for students to have their phones 'off and away' to avoid the temptation to use them. All classrooms have clocks, with school bells denoting the start of each lesson, so there is no need to use phones to tell the time. A small number of students may require the use of a mobile phone for medical reasons. Where this is essential, it should be done in prior agreement with the school.

In recent conversations with parents, when talking about the issue of phones, it is clear that the overwhelming feeling is that children need to spend less time on digital devices and screens. In the news, many recent stories address the increasingly serious issues linked to the inappropriate use of phones and social media. I believe that our school should be a safe haven where the negative impact of mobile phones is minimised as far as possible and, therefore, I am seeking your support in the position we have taken in implementing our Mobile Phone Policy.

If you have any questions or feedback on our Mobile Phone Policy or its implementation please contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A M Leese
Headteacher