



23rd June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past decade, mobile phones have become an integral part of our daily lives. Whilst they undoubtedly bring a range of benefits and convenience, we cannot ignore their potential negative effects, particularly in an educational setting. Numerous studies have highlighted the detrimental impact of excessive mobile phone use on learning outcomes, attention span, and mental health among young people.

At Astrea Academy Woodfields, we have for many years now been a “No Mobile Phone School”. This policy aims to create an environment conducive to learning, minimise distractions, eliminate cyber bullying and foster stronger interpersonal connections within our school community. It is essential that we work together as parents/carers, educators, and scholars to ensure a focused and enriching educational experience.

The vast majority of scholars follow this key aspect of our behaviour policy however, we have seen a recent increase in the use of mobile phones within school. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our academy’s mobile phone policy:

- 1) Mobile phones should be either left at home OR switched off and be placed securely in a scholar’s bag.
- 2) If an electronic device is used, seen or heard then it will be confiscated securely until the end of the following day. If this occurs on a Friday, then the device will be confiscated over the weekend and not be given back until the end of the school day on Monday. If this occurs on the last day of a half term, the phone will not be given back until the first day back at the academy after the holiday.
- 3) If a scholar refuses to hand over an electronic device that is used, seen or heard then we will follow our usual behaviour policy which is available on our website.
- 4) To reduce the temptation to use and therefore eliminate the chance of a phone being confiscated, scholars can voluntarily hand over phones. This would need to take place at the beginning of the school day to either scholar services or main reception. This can then be collected from the same location at the end of the day.
- 5) Emergency situations. There may be a rare occasion in which emergency contact is required between a parent/carers and child. Scholars can contact Scholar Services or their pastoral leader in these rare circumstances and contact home will be arranged. Similarly, parents/carers can contact the school reception in person, by phone or by email and any messages will be passed onto scholars.

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Principal: Mr David Scales



We strongly encourage parents/carers to support us in enforcing this mobile phone policy not only in school but also at home. By limiting mobile phone usage and fostering healthy screen time habits, we can collectively promote better concentration, engagement, and overall academic success among our scholars.

At Astrea Academy Woodfields, we remain committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our scholars. By working together, we can create an environment that maximizes their potential, encourages meaningful interactions, and cultivates a lifelong love for learning.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Lambert

Vice Principal

