



Dear Parent/Carer

After some recent incidents regarding mobile phones at the academy, I thought it would be helpful to remind pupils, parents and carers of our expectations in terms of our policy on mobile phone use. During assembly and form times pupils will be being told and reminded of the policy. Please read below the reasons, guidelines and procedure of how this policy works so that you can support your child in following this. We know that our pupils do best when our big messages, rules and policies are supported and reinforced by you at home.

We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most pupils own a mobile phone with access to the internet and for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone to contact home after or before school. However, mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in the academy such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Here at Sutton Community Academy, we strongly encourage our pupils to develop socially and emotionally. This development is just as important as any academic progress or examination grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can best be done by talking to each other, interacting and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones.

It is for these reasons that like many other schools our policy completely bans the use of mobile phones on the school site, during school hours. This includes during break times and movement between lessons. Any student found using their mobile phone during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with our policy and procedure outlined in brief below.

17.2 Whilst we accept that pupils may carry a mobile phone on journeys to and from the academy, they are not to be used on our academy sites at any time unless part of an agreed supervised teacher led activity.

17.3 Pupils using mobile phones on the academy site, without express permission of the senior leadership team, will be confiscated and will be stored in the academy's reception. Where a phone is confiscated on a first occasion, the pupil can retrieve their phone from reception, where the confiscation is a repeat, parents/ carers will be asked to retrieve it.

17.4 Where mobile phones are required for school activities/ trips a clear plan will be formulated by the Head of Academy, to mitigate the risks of allowing access to phones.

There have been some recent occasions where pupils are walking around with their phones in clear visibility during social times, this is often because they do not have a bag to store them. During the academy day, phones should be switched off and out of sight. Please can we ask parents and carers to support us, by ensuring that your child has a bag in which to store their phone.



SUTTON
COMMUNITY
ACADEMY

 SCA-office@attrust.org.uk

 01623 980055

 High Pavement, Sutton-in Ashfield,
Notts, NG17 1EE

Principal: Patrick Butterell

We have also had a few occasions where parents and carers are phoning/ texting their child during the academy day, which is either disrupting learning or leading to a situation where a phone is visible. Please can we ask that you do not contact your child during the day. We understand there might be an emergency where your child might need to contact you. We would ask that on such occasions, that your child goes to their relevant Assistant/Head of Year during break or lunch time and they will provide a safe location in which to contact you. It is not acceptable for pupils to be wandering around the academy speaking to someone on their phone.

Over the next two weeks, we will be communicating these expectations clearly to students. This is to set the culture for September and get pupils used to these expectations.

From September, we are going to confiscate phones if we see them, and we will store them until the end of the day, where they will then be given back to pupils. Where there is more than one confiscation, we will be asking parents/ carers to collect the phone. We hope that we do not have to inconvenience you in this way.

Please get back to me if you have any questions about our stronger reinforcement of a policy that was already in place.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Mr Taylor

Mr L. Taylor

Vice Principal



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
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The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>

