

13 July 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: Mobile Phones and Uniform Changes

This morning we held assemblies with all the students to outline some changes for September.

There has been a clear direction of travel nationally for schools to restrict the use of mobile phones in the school day. Our leadership team have reviewed the latest research and evidence on the impact of phone use in schools and we have concluded that in the interests of student's health, safety and academic outcomes there is a clear benefit to extending our restrictions on mobile phones. In September we will have a policy that students' phones should not be seen or heard on site.

We understand that students may find it useful to contact home after school about travel arrangements. In these circumstances, where parents wish the student to have access to a phone, the **phones must be in bags turned off during the school day. Phones in bags must conform to the rule of "Not Seen or Heard"**.

Mobile phones may be allowed on school trips off-site where the safeguarding of students on balance is in favour of allowing mobile phone use as staff direct.

We will use sanctions similarly to now for students who contravene the policy, the exact details will be shared with students in September.

I would like to reiterate to parents and guardians that our current policy on communication will continue; any communication from home should come through the school office and will then be distributed to students as appropriate. Students can use the school office to communicate urgent messages home.

Secondly I would like to update you on some changes to our uniform code. I am a parent and when buying school shoes have noted the shift in design that is making trainers indistinguishable from some shoes. We need school rules that are clear and enforceable and so we are removing the ban on trainers and instead are prescribing only that the **shoes should be completely black, including the soles or logos**. The specific wording and exclusions can be found in the uniform code which accompanies this letter.

We currently have variability in skirt length and some skirts are too short to be acceptable for practical activities. The current uniform code specifies that skirts should of a "respectable length", this lacks clarity and has led to the uncertainty in acceptable skirt length.



ITE Partner



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In September the new uniform code will specify that **skirts should be no shorter than a student's closed hand width above the knee.** We understand that students have different hand widths but we wanted a simple system that students could check themselves when wearing or purchasing a skirt. We will be sensible about the enforcement of this rule as skirts purchased in September will be shorter by a cm or two as the students grow in height and the exact placement of the hand above the knee will vary. This rule change will though ensure that skirts are more uniform in length and of a suitable length for practical activities.

I look forward to your support in ensuring these school rules are supported and enforced. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you wish to discuss the changes outlined above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Dallimore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Mr S Dallimore
Vice Principal