



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## The Use of Mobile Phones & Smart Watches in School

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the Easter holidays we intend to reaffirm with students our current policy regarding mobile phone and smart watch use in school, whilst informing them of some minor adjustments to what will happen with equipment if confiscated by a member of staff. This will take place during assemblies and tutor time.

Please read the reasons, guidelines and procedures of our policy and how it will work, so that you can support your child in following this. We know that our students do best when our messages, rules and policies are supported and reinforced by you, at home.

We understand that mobile phones, smart watches and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most students 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 school such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media, leading to potential safeguarding issues.

Here at Meden School, we strongly encourage our students to develop both, 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.

Our school policy has always been to completely ban the use of mobile phones, ensuring they are switched off on the school site, during school hours. This includes break and lunchtimes. Any student found using their mobile phone or having it switched on during school hours, will be dealt with in accordance with our policy and procedure outlined in brief below. Copies of the policy can be found on the school website. We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact home during the day. We ask parents and carers to inform us of this as soon as possible and students will be allowed to use the school phone to speak to home. The mobile phone ban will remain in place.

### Guidelines and Procedure

1. Mobile phones must remain out of sight and switched off during school hours. This includes break and lunchtimes. Phones must not be seen or heard. On the school site, we are a no phones school. This means as soon as students enter through the school site that phones should be **switched off and out of sight**.
2. Any student seen using their mobile phone during school hours, including break and lunchtimes, will have their phone confiscated and a 25-minute afterschool detention will be issued. This is for any reason. Refusal to hand over the mobile phone will result in an internal exclusion.

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3. Confiscated phones or smart watches must be taken to student services where the phone/watch will be stored, and the name of the student will be recorded. In the first instance the phone/watch can be collected by the student at the end of the school day by our student services team.
4. Any further breaches of the policy, by the same student, will require parents or carers to collect the mobile phone from school. Further sanctions will be applied which are proportionate to the level of disruption caused.
5. Smart watches aren't allowed on school site and will be treated like mobile phones.

The policy and new procedures will come into effect on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Thank you as always for your support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Mr Jim Smith  
Headteacher