

May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to ask for your support in relation to Whitley Bay High School students' use of mobile phones in lessons.

Despite most students using phones maturely and appropriately, a small number of students are being distracted from their learning by their phone.

Therefore from 6th June all students must continue to have a school bag with them for school each day. Every lesson students will be expected to place their phone in their bag. If any student does not have a bag they will be asked to place their phone in a box on the teachers' desk until the end of the lesson.

I know that mobile phones are a powerful learning tool, providing access to information easily. They can be used in class for a range of activities as well as being a valuable organisational tool. Microsoft 365 and Teams are used to help with organisation, set deadlines and as a homework system throughout the school. Therefore, students will still regularly use mobiles in lessons, but only under the direction of their teachers. It is important that students learn how to manage technology in a positive and productive way before they enter the workplace or university.

If a student refuses to place their phone in their bag (or box), a member of the on call team will be called to resolve the situation quickly. If the student still refuses to put their phone away, they will be asked to hand over their phone to the on call teacher who will store their phone safely for the rest of the morning or afternoon. Students may also be removed from that lesson. Mobile phones can then be collected from the main office at lunchtime or the end of the day. They will not be able to have access to their phone until this time (but will always have it over lunch time to buy their lunch).

If a student has had a phone removed several times, then you will be contacted and asked to come in to discuss this situation and ways we can resolve this issue.

I understand that for most parents/carers their child having a phone with them has positive safety implications and totally support this: this decision is purely about the quality of learning in the classroom. Likewise, at Whitley Bay High School, we want to encourage students to become independent, confident, life-long learners who are able to use mobile phones in a positive way including to aid learning.

If your child always uses their phone appropriately in school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and you. I would appreciate it if you would speak to your child over the half term break about the use of their phone in lessons and ensure they have a school bag ready to come back after the break.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Steve Wilson
Headteacher

Please note: we always recommend that students use an inexpensive phone in school. The school accepts no responsibility for the damage or loss of mobile phones that have been brought into school.