

22nd March 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

At Saint George we understand the importance of carrying mobile phones for student safety to stay in contact with you when travelling to and from school. This is the reason students are currently allowed to bring their mobile phones to school and use them during break time and lunchtime.

However, over the last year we have noticed a significant increase in the number of incidents which are being reported to Progress Leaders, of all year groups, regarding inappropriate use of mobile phones. Incidents include sharing of inappropriate imagery; racist or offensive language; persistent nuisance messages and students taking pictures or videos of each other without permission. Often these incidents are occurring off the school site and out of school hours. This is now starting to negatively impact on a large number of student's attitude to learning as they are bringing their online problems onto the school playground. These are incidents which are now having to be dealt with by the pastoral team as they are affecting the emotional and academic welfare of the students affected.

This year students have already been spoken to during assemblies and in tutor time on a number of occasions about the use of technology both during and outside of school. This includes poor use of social media such as Instagram and Facebook, as well as smart phone applications like SnapChat and WhatsApp. Students have been warned that such incidents can lead to the involvement of the police, an investigation taking place and possible criminal convictions. The school's mobile phone policy will also lead to sanctions for any student who brings the school's reputation into disrepute or causes behavioural issues on site.

We realise that, as a school, we have limited access to the technology and social media accounts that students use outside of school. Therefore we ask that you to take the opportunity over the Easter break to check the use of your son/daughter's mobile phone. We advise that you regularly monitor the activity of smart phone applications and social media and discuss the importance of privacy settings, the sharing of images and inappropriate messaging. We recommend that any incidents you feel are inappropriate should be reported to the police using 101, as well as the Progress Leader for more information.

We thank you for your continued support with this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Marie Cordeiro
Deputy Head



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