

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Expectations in school

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in ensuring our students are properly prepared for the school day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer a couple of reminders around expectations within school.

Inappropriate language

During this last half term, we have seen a rise in the number of students using inappropriate language towards other students in school and sometimes staff. When challenging students, it's clear that in most circumstances, students believe there is no harm intended. However, the impact of unacceptable language can be profound, and deliberate discriminatory language and behaviour towards our students and society can be catastrophic and have lifelong effects.

This unacceptable behaviour is outlined in the government's Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2023) guidance. It is part of every school's Safeguarding Policy to protect students from physical harm but also harm to their mental health as well as protecting students from discriminatory bullying.

We will be talking to students in our assemblies about the academy value of Respect and why it is important to treat people with respect, but I would like to request that parents/carers speak to their child(ren) and explain the serious nature of using such derogatory and inappropriate terminology.

We will continue to challenge these behaviours, including stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination, as these may be seen as bullying and that is wrong, and we will continue to review our curriculum to ensure that students are aware of what is right and wrong.

Any repeated incidents of discriminatory or inappropriate language will result in a suspension and may be reported to the police.

Use of mobile phones

We are also aware some students are using their mobile phones in school during lesson or social times to communicate with friends, parents, or carers. This is in breach of our behaviour policy and serious sanctions will be issued if your child is found using their phone in school. Phones are not to be seen or heard on school site, any student either seen with a phone or found using a phone will

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have their phone confiscated until the end of the day as per our policy. If this is a repeated issue, the sanctions will be increased and may result in a suspension.

The use of phones within school could also constitute a safeguarding breach.

Please can we ask you to remind your child about the school rules regarding mobile phones. These should be turned off and in bags for the duration of the school day. Breaches of this rule will result in the issuing of serious sanctions, which may result in a suspension.

These expectations help create a safe learning environment for your children, where they come to school without fear of hearing inappropriate language, being bullied or being subject to online bullying via phones in school.

Your help and support is needed to ensure that your child has the best possible school experience. We thank you in advance for taking some time to remind your child of the expectations outlined above.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Mr Dan Neal

Principal

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