



# The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7HL

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14 February 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Headteacher: Edward Gaynor

Over the past few months, in consultation with staff and students, I have been reviewing and amending our school behaviour policy. You will find a copy of this on our school website located under 'School Information / Policies'. You may be aware that the use of mobile phones by young people has become of increasing concern nationally and we are also concerned about students over reliance and misuse of these in school.

Our current rules allow students to use their mobile devices at break and lunchtime only. Our intention is to teach students how to use these devices in a responsible and mature way, in preparation for their working life. However, we have been experiencing an increasing number of problems with their use in school including:

- Students using mobile phones in between lessons
- Students checking messages / devices beeping during lessons
- Students videoing each other during the day and posting on social media
- Parents contacting students during lesson time (and vice versa)
- Persistent disruption of learning in classrooms

While I recognise that it is a small minority of students who are misusing their devices, clearly this is not something which I can allow to continue. Therefore, I have held assemblies with all students this week to share with them our concerns and to inform them of some key changes in our behaviour policy concerning mobile phone usage. These are:

If they (mobile devices) are seen or heard other than at break / lunchtime, staff will confiscate the phone:

- On the first occasion, the student may collect the phone at 3.15pm
- On the second occasion, the student's parent/carer will make an appointment to collect the phone and discuss their child's usage with the appropriate Head of Year
- On the third occasion, the student and parent will be notified that they are no longer allowed to bring a mobile device onto the school site

I hope that over half term you will discuss this with your child and support them and the school by not contacting them or encouraging them to contact you during lesson time. I will be monitoring the impact of these changes closely over the coming weeks and expect to see a reduction in incidents involving mobile devices. As I explained to the students, if I do not, I will consult with parents/carers with a view to not allowing mobile devices to be used on the school site at all from September 2020 (as a number of other local secondary schools have already done).

I would welcome your views on this and any comments can be sent directly to me at [admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)

Yours Sincerely

Brett Daddow  
Senior Assistant Headteacher  
Astley Cooper School





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