



February 2020

Ref: MSU/pab

Dear Parents & Carers

Items banned from school

I am writing to clarify the school's position on items that are banned from school, with a particular focus on mobile phones and all other electronic equipment. A full list of banned items is given below and can also be found in the school Relationships and Behaviour Policy which is available on the school website.

Website Policy link:

https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/POLICY_Relationships-Behaviour-F20.pdf

List of items:

- weapons or items which could reasonably be considered weapons
- cigarettes, illegal substances, alcohol
- mobile phones and all other electronic equipment brought to school
- items which might be deemed offensive to the ethos of the school, e.g. racist material or pornography
- personal jewellery which is not consistent with the school uniform policy or which might present a health and safety risk in a lesson, e.g. large rings and earrings
- coats which are persistently worn in the school building
- hooded tops, caps/hats
- frozen drinks
- food and drinks being consumed anywhere in the building besides the atrium at break/lunchtime

With regard to mobile phones and all other electronic equipment (including earphones/headphones), the school has maintained a very clear policy for many years. These items are banned from school, along with others on the above list, and will be confiscated from students if found to be in their possession. There is no reason for a student to have a mobile phone or other electronic equipment in their possession during the school day. Indeed, when used surreptitiously and inappropriately, they can cause severe disruption to the smooth running of the school.

For clarity, our policy is not that mobile phones and other electronic equipment are allowed in school as long as they are kept out of sight. They are not to be brought into school at all.

As stated above, if a student is found to have such banned items in their possession they will be confiscated, kept (potentially to the end of the half term) and only returned after a meeting between the Head of Year and parent/carer at which future behaviour will be agreed. I would also like to make clear that the loss, damage or theft of mobile phones, electronic equipment and other banned items brought into school (in contravention of our policy) will not be investigated by the school.



We understand that in exceptional circumstances some parents may wish their son to have a mobile phone on his journey to and from school. If this is the case, there should be a discussion and then a written agreement with the Head of Year. In such cases, the student will then deposit their phone at Student Services before school begins, and collect it at the end of the school day.

I am sure you will understand that our policy is in place in order to promote the smooth and effective running of the school for the benefit of all students. You will remember agreeing to the policy when your son joined us in Year 7 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in these matters.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require further clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Sullivan', with a wavy line underneath.

Michael Sullivan
Headteacher

Cc: file