



Dear Parent/Carer,

Over February half term, the Department for Education circulated updated guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day: [Mobile phones in schools - February 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). This guidance was very timely as our governors met on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February to discuss Hazeley's current positioning with this. It was agreed to sharpen some of our working practices with regards to mobile phones, devices and headphones.

### **Why the change for Hazeley?**

It's clear that mobile phones impact all aspects of school life and provide much distraction. National data states that by the time students arrive at secondary school, ownership of mobile phones is ubiquitous; 97% of children own a mobile phone, 29% of secondary school students reported mobile phones being used without permission in most of their lessons.

1. **Phones not only distract the pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class,** and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning. We wish to create a disruption free climate for learning at all times of the day at Hazeley. Apple's own research has shown that children unlock their phone 80 times a day. Additionally, the London School of Economics have found that test scores of 16 year olds improve by 6.4% when mobile phones are not used within the school, which equates to a week of extra education over an academic year.
2. **One in five children have experienced bullying online.** Data from Office of National Statistics (2020) suggests that one in five children (19%) aged 10-15 experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they experienced at least some of it at school or during school time.
3. **30% of students cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression.** By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

### **What's changing for Hazeley?**

- From **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June onwards** we will not permit phone's, electronic devices or headphone usage **at any time** during the day, this includes all social times.
- Our expectations are simple: **'not seen, not used or not heard' during the school day.**
- Phones, devices or headphones are not to be seen in school, **from the moment students enter the school premises (ie school gate or via reception) until they exit the gates at the end of the school day. This includes the outside playgrounds.**
- Phones are to be switched off, kept in students bags or blazer pocket and must be **out of sight** at all times.
- We will have zero tolerance for any phones seen and be more robust with maintaining a phone/device, headphone free academy.



### When is this changing?

This will come into effect from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** which is first day back in the final half term.

### What will happen if a student's mobile phone is used, seen or heard?

**Over the entire academic year, the following will happen.**

- a) **1<sup>st</sup> time confiscation** – student collect end of day from student services.
- b) **2<sup>nd</sup> time confiscation** – Parents contacted by student services to inform of the confiscation and invited to collect **Friday of that week** between 3.15 – 4.15pm
- c) **3<sup>rd</sup> time confiscation** - Parents contacted to inform of the confiscation and invited to collect Friday of that week between 3.15-4.15pm and a mandatory 2-week mobile phone ban. Conversation with member of leadership team to discuss a way forward.

Non-compliance with the above is likely to lead to further escalation in line with our behaviour policy. We will communicate these changes repeatedly with students in the build up to June 3<sup>rd</sup> to prevent the need for any confiscations in the first place.

### Frequently asked questions

#### **How will my son daughter access their timetable, which is on their phone?**

- Students must use their planner which should contain their timetable. They are encouraged to have multiple copies of their timetable.

#### **How will my son daughter tell the time, as they rely on their phone?**

- We aim to teach/remind students in tutor time how to use an analogue clock, which are in every corridor, and we encourage students to attend with a non-smart wristwatch.

#### **How will I know that my son/daughter is ready to be picked up as they attend after school clubs and activities?**

- They will be allowed to use their phone outside the building after school if they need to arrange to be picked up.
- P6 lessons are pre-booked, and Arbor will have relevant information.

#### **How can I communicate with my son/daughter urgently during the day?**

- This can be done through our main reception either via email [enquiries@haz5d.com](mailto:enquiries@haz5d.com), or contacting **01908 555620** where we will endeavour to pass on your message. Likewise, students can go to student services at break/lunchtime if they need to make contact home during the day. Messages must be of an urgent nature only.

#### **What if my son/daughter is on a trip and/or fixture?**

- We recognise that being able to contact parents regarding return times is essential, and that many parents will want to retain regular contact with their child on residential visits. The trip leader will provide clarity on phone, electronic usage for the trip or fixture.



### **What if my son/daughter needs their phone for medical reasons?**

- Reasonable adjustments will be made for a very small number of students that may require the usage of a mobile phone/apps during the day, for example a long-term medical reason, or part of an Educational Health Care Plan. Where evidence backs this up, individual arrangements will be made through the Progress Leader (and/or matron and SENCO).

**No student will be permitted to openly use mobile phones or headphones in classrooms, corridors, or social times.** Should parents feel this applies to your son/daughter, please email [enquiries@haz5d.com](mailto:enquiries@haz5d.com)

### **What if I don't have confidence my son/daughter can follow these expectations?**

- We can offer a secure location to store phones, devices/earphones in student services if your son/daughter is unable to resist the temptation of using them. They can be handed in each morning on arrival to school between 8.20 - 8.35am.

### **What are the expectations for sixth form students?**

- The same rules apply for sixth form students however they are permitted to use them in specified sixth form areas only and when in class with the teacher's permission.

### **What if it's a PE day on my child's timetable?**

- Students should put their phone in a bag, or wear a blazer on top of their uniform. Carrying a phone around the academy is not permitted and will lead to a confiscation if the item can be seen.

### **How will you inform students of the changes?**

- We will do this through lead lessons, tutor time discussions and positive reinforcement in the build up to our launch date. We aim to help students adjust to the changes through over communication and explaining the reasoning behind this.

### **What is expected before the start of the day or end of the day?**

- At the start of the day students are expected to be off the phone as they **enter the premises via the student entrance/gate or via main reception.**
- At the end of the day, students are permitted to use their phone only when they have **left the site via main reception or student entrance/gate.**

### **How can parents help?**

- Reinforce the school's policy at home and support the creation of a culture free from the distraction of mobile phones, devices and earphones.
- Share positive experiences which have resulted from successfully establishing a mobile phone-free environment. Without access to mobile phones and the unfiltered internet access, pupils can focus on the present, the people around them and their education. Without the disruption mobile phones cause, school staff can spend more time teaching and supporting pupils and less time fixing conflict and relationship breakdowns.



Specific details can be found in our [phone procedure document](#) which we will be sharing with students. Please take a moment to read this so you can fully support your child(ren).

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this complete ban of mobile phones, electronic devices and earphones and sharing our stance of '**not seen, not used or not heard**' during the school day.

Should you require any further details, please contact [enquiries@haz5d.com](mailto:enquiries@haz5d.com)

Yours Faithfully

S Healy

Deputy Principal