

The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

1st September 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you in relation to important changes to the Schools Code of Conduct (see attached). However, I feel it is important to explain why we have changed our procedures on the confiscation of mobile phones.

As a school we have become increasingly concerned with the number of high profile incidents that have been reported through the national press involving children and social networking sites such as Facebook and Formspring. Despite the schools attempts to work proactively by launching anti-bullying week and e-safety programmes, the school has had to deal with cyber-bullying incidents this year each linked to comments posted on social networking sites. Students have then sought to resolve arguments in school, which in turn impacts upon the harmony within the Wiseman community. We have also noticed an increase in the number of students attempting to use their mobile phones during school time, particularly to access the internet and such websites. This is clearly presenting a distraction for some students, and due to the reasons mentioned, we are eager to stop this trend. Therefore, we have altered the code of conduct with relation to mobile phone use within school. As of September 2010, should a mobile phone be confiscated:

'Phone's will only be returned to my Parent/Carer, 24 hours after it has been confiscated. Parent's /Carer's will be required to sign a consent form allowing the school to keep the phone until the half-term, should it be confiscated a second time'

As a school we feel this will act as an added deterrent to students who may be tempted to use their phones during school time. I hope you understand the reasons for making this change to the Code of Conduct and continue to support us in ensuring that all our students stay safe and fulfill their academic potential.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P. Walton
Assistant Headteacher