



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form



Headteacher: Mrs C Laws BA Hons

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' Oscar Romero

17th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe in school, staff will from time to time carry out random bag checks to ensure that students are not bringing banned or dangerous items into school.

This week we were also able to arrange for a safety arch to be in operation to give students an added sense of security on the school site.

I am pleased to report that students have heeded the clear messages in our recent safety assemblies, and that none of our checks have discovered any dangerous items being brought in by students.

However, what has come to light is that a large number of students are disregarding the school's rule banning mobile phones in Years 7-11. We are very clear with all students on this policy, and the rationale is simple - mobile phones make students more vulnerable on their way to and from school, are expensive items that the school cannot take responsibility for if they are lost or broken whilst on site, and distract students from their learning.

Mobile phones are confiscated when found and will be returned to a parent or carer after 2 weeks.

We are sometimes asked if students can bring their phone into school and drop it at the school office. It is not possible or practical for over 1000 students to bring phones in every day and for staff to check them in and out.

Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

Mr P Murphy BSc Hons
Deputy Headteacher & Head of Lower School

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Wiseman House Site

30-34 Shernhall Street, London E17 9RT

Mr J Gharu BA Hons
Deputy Headteacher & Head of Upper School

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However, for a very small number of students (e.g. those with a known medical condition, those who have an identified safeguarding risk or those who live very far from school) this is an arrangement we consider. I must emphasise that this is in place for approximately 10 students at any one time, representing only about 1% of the school population.

I therefore ask for your co-operation in supporting the school's rules, and reiterating them with your child.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Laws". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Carolyn Laws
Headteacher