



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

23rd January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, the school carries out random searches from time to time in order to safeguard the school community.

Random searches may be carried out within a class, tutor group or whole year group if the school has reasonable grounds for believing that individuals or groups of students are in possession of items banned under our Behaviour Policy.

Any confiscated items will be dealt with according to our policy (please see below for the relevant paragraph).

It is vital that all students are co-operative with this approach so that teaching and learning in our school can continue with minimum disruption.

During a random search this week, it has come to my attention that despite our clear policy on mobile phones, a number of students persist in bringing them into school. Our Behaviour for Learning policy, which you can find on the school website, clearly states:

Where mobile phones are discovered they will be confiscated and will be retained for 2 weeks and only returned to a parent/carer.

I am asking that you support the school by reiterating our clear expectations with your child, including the consequences for not meeting them.

Students who respond poorly to staff when having items confiscated will be sanctioned, including suspension.

Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

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

Tel: 020 8520 0482 **Web:** www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Wiseman House Site

30-34 Shernhall Street, London E17 9RT

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

Tel: 020 8520 3587 **Email:** office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk



Below is the relevant paragraph from our policy; the entire policy is available for you to view on the school website:

10.5 Confiscation (See DfE publication Searching, Screening and Confiscation updated 2018)

**All items that are forbidden in school will be confiscated.
Other items that cause disruption or inappropriate behaviour will also be confiscated, as will inappropriate coats, hats, scarves, jewellery etc.
Only plain black or the official Holy Family hats and scarves are permissible (see uniform list on the school's website).**

Note that once confiscated:

- **Offensive weapons, illegal substances, tobacco and alcohol products will not be returned and will be given to the Police.**
- **Mobile phones will be retained for two weeks and will be returned to a parent/carer.**
- **Food and drink that has been opened will be disposed of.**
- **Other items will be returned to the student within a reasonable timescale.**
- **Note that the school is not responsible for items that have been confiscated.**

Thank you, as ever, for your support of the school.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Laws
Headteacher