



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the new school term, we are writing to remind you of some important changes to the school day that were communicated at the end of last term. We would also like to draw your attention to the new government guidance regarding mobile phones in schools.

Friday School Day

From September, students will no longer be dismissed at **2:30pm on Fridays**. Instead, they will remain in school until **3:10pm**, in line with the school day on the other weekdays.

New government law on mobile phones in schools

Under Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the government's guidance on mobile phones in schools now has the force of law. This came into effect on 29 June 2026, and schools are required to have their policy in place and being followed from 1 September 2026. This is a change introduced by the government and we ask for every family's support in making it work.

From September 2026, our Mobile Phone Policy will be as follows:

- Basic, non-internet-enabled phones only. Pupils may bring a simple phone with no internet access for use on the journey to and from school — for example, a basic Nokia handset. It must be switched off and kept in the bag all day.
- Smartphones and other internet-enabled devices are not permitted on the school site. This includes smartphones, tablets and smartwatches that can connect to the internet, receive notifications, or record audio or video, whether switched on or off.
- Sixth Form students may bring and use smartphones, as these are often used as a learning tool at this stage. However, they may only be used in designated Sixth Form areas, not in the main school.

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@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk



- Confiscation. Any prohibited device found on site will be confiscated for two school weeks and can only be collected in person by a parent or carer.

How you can help

Because this is now a legal requirement, we would be grateful for your support in the following ways:

- Please talk to your child about the rules.
- If your child needs a phone for the journey to and from school, please help them choose a basic, non-internet-enabled model.

If you have any questions, or if your child has a medical condition that requires the use of a mobile phone during the school day, please contact us so we can discuss this with you individually.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jason Gharu
Deputy Headteacher