



Hall Green School An Academy

30th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the letter published in our school website last May, we encourage parents and carers to regularly monitor your child's use of texting, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter, and Snapchat and other social media sites. Access to these is out of the school's control when your child is not in school.

During the Covid pandemic, the use of electronic devices increased to be able to access educational content but also for entertaining purposes. It is especially important that you monitor what content your child is accessing and what content your child is storing in their devices. Please pay particular attention to what photos and videos they have.

Most of our pupils use electronic devices sensibly, but please be aware that as part of our Guidelines for Pupils Users of the School Network, pupils should be aware that the sending of malicious messages via text and/or Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, BBM, Twitter, Email etc. is classed as a criminal act. Any information brought to our attention regarding behaviour out of school but involving our pupils may be treated as a police issue and parents will be advised to report the incident to the police. Harassing, insulting or attacking others through electronic media is illegal.

As per our Dress Code Policy, we understand that pupils may bring a mobile phone in to school for safety purposes, but we must stress that these are brought on site at the pupil's own risk. They should be turned off and stored in the pupil's school bag out of sight. Pupils may listen to music using in-ear headphones in the school playground during break and lunchtimes. At all other times, and throughout the building at all times, the phone should be turned off and stored in the pupil's bag out of sight.

If pupils are not complying with this rule, their mobile phone and / or headphones will be confiscated and stored safely by the Head of House from where they may be collected at the end of the school day following a 20-minute detention. Further sanctions may be issued (e.g. additional detention/reflection room) if pupils do not comply with staff instructions re confiscations. For more serious incidents (e.g. students recording another pupil or staff), further sanctions will be applied, including the possibility of suspension, and your child might need to hand in their mobile phone on arrival to school each day to be stored safely by the Head of House.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school via enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk

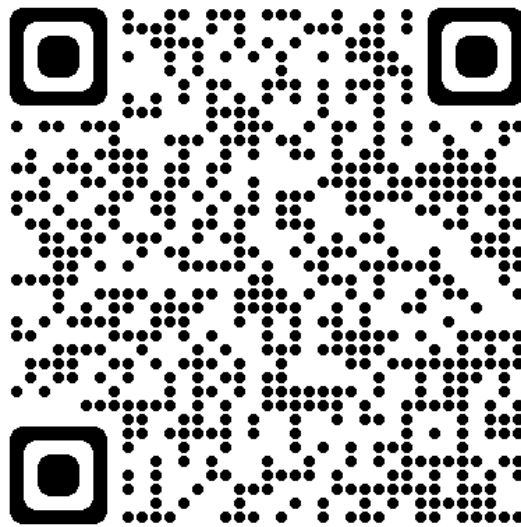
Yours sincerely

Mr J Rodriguez
Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Care

A reminder of guidance previously shared:

It is particularly important that you monitor your child's use of their mobile phone or game consoles. All mobile companies have designed safety features to support parents with safeguarding their children at home. Some of these features might include limiting usage time or introducing restrictions (e.g. when children try to download an application or trying to purchase something online, they will send a notification asking parents/ carers to authorise it or not). Further details in this link or in the QR code below

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>



Childnet — Online safety for young people <https://www.childnet.com/> offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support. Further guidance for parents can be found on a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) launched a campaign to encourage adults to T.A.L.K to their children about the dangers online.

- **Talk to your child** - Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- **Agree ground rules** about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn about the platforms** and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know how to use tools**, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Childline has very useful advice for parents and children to keep safe online and practical guidance to follow if you need to remove any content online, including sexting. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>

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