



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN
THEE

Headteacher: Ms H Marriott MA, NPQH
Church Hill Walthamstow London E17 9RZ
Telephone: 020 8509 9446
Email: info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk
Website: www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk

28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to remind you about our mobile phone policy and **to reinforce our expectations surrounding the use of mobile phones within school**. We have recently had some students and parents who have questioned our policy or have felt it unfair if their child has had their phone confiscated and have demanded to have their phone returned before the 48 hours has elapsed. **I therefore wanted to write to you to explain the policy and its rationale so that we can apply it consistently and without exceptions. This will come into effect from Monday 10th March.**

This policy will also apply to the use of mobile phones in the school building after school. Where students remain behind for clubs, they usually collect their phone from the office before attending. **If the student has permission from the member of staff** in charge of the club, they may use their phone for an emergency, e.g. to contact a parent. However, phones should not be seen or used under any other circumstances.

As you are aware, our school operates a strict policy regarding mobile phones: **they are not allowed on site unless they are handed in to our school reception at the start of the day**. If a student is found to be in possession of a mobile phone, it will be confiscated and **will not be returned until 48 school hours have elapsed**. To ensure that there is absolute clarity, this is how the 48-hour rule will be applied from now on:

- Confiscation on Monday – returned on Wednesday after school
- Confiscation on Tuesday – returned on Thursday after school
- Confiscation on Wednesday – returned on Friday after school
- Confiscation on Thursday – returned on Monday after school
- Confiscation on Friday – returned on Tuesday after school

This policy is in place to support our **vision of lifelong learning**, ensuring that students are focused on their studies, have time away from technology and are free from unnecessary distractions. We are all aware of how mobile phone use can impact students' concentration, social interactions, and overall well-being. As part of our ongoing commitment to our young people and their learning, we are currently exploring the transition towards **becoming a 'smartphone-free' school in the future**.





We kindly ask for your support in enforcing our mobile phone policy. **Please do not ask teachers or office staff to make exceptions as this will not be possible.** Where our pastoral staff feel that it would be detrimental to students to lose their phones for 48 hours, e.g. if they are young carers, they will be strongly advised to leave the phone in the school office.

Please speak to your child to ensure they understand the importance of following school rules regarding mobile phone use. This message will be reinforced by form tutors during tutor time so that everyone is fully aware before the policy is enforced on the 10th of March.

By working together, we can create a more focused, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Marriott'.

Helen Marriott

Headteacher