



CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Camphill, Canal St, Paisley, PA1 2HL
Tel: 0300 300 1300
e-mail: castleheadhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk
web address: www.Castleheadhigh.com
Head Teacher: Mr Gordon Menzies

Children's Services
Director: Janie O'Neill

USE OF MOBILE PHONES

Dear Parent/Carer

We currently live in a world where there is an increased dependency on mobile phones. And while this brings huge benefits, in schools, it can also present real challenges.

The use of mobile phones can have benefits in the classroom - at the appropriate times. However, despite clear expectations that pupils keep phones in bags, unless being allowed to use them for learning, we are still finding daily challenges over phone misuse, these include constant notifications, phones buzzing in pockets, and interruptions to learning and teaching. Not only does this have an impact on the learning environment for all our young people and teachers, but also on the wellbeing of the individual young person as they battle to cope with the constant stream of messages and notifications coming through their phones. For some, it becomes an internal battle they are not winning, as they feel pressure to engage with what is happening on phones. This causes the staff of Castlehead High great concern and we recognise it as a major issue in ensuring teaching and learning runs smoothly and promotes a positive learning environment in classes. We are sure as parents and carer you also have many conversations about how much your children are on their phones.

Recently, our Technical department have run a pilot programme with S1 classes where they are storing pupils phones in a box at the start of the lesson and return them at the end. While there were some initial reservations, staff and pupils have reported improved engagement in learning and less disruption. This is leading to improved attainment which is something we are all aiming for.

Therefore, from Monday 22nd April, **all** mobile phones will be handed to the class teacher who will safely store them until the end of the lesson. Of course, this is not a total removal of mobile phone access: pupils will have access to their mobile phones before the start of every school day, as they change class at the end of every period, during intervals and lunchtimes, and at the end of every school day, but this approach will allow us to create



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Please follow this link to a recent media report around the use of mobiles in school.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz9q6weg00ro>

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Head Teacher



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