



June 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

**Raising standards at Stanground Academy  
MOBILE PHONE CONSULTATION & UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS**

At Stanground Academy, we are committed to raising standards and instilling a culture where students and staff feel safe, supported, and can thrive in a professional environment. To this end, we are keen to review the current student mobile phone policy which currently permits students to carry and use their mobile phones around the Academy during break and lunchtimes (this includes earphones and other electronic devices). The reality is that mobile phone usage is now commonplace, including in lessons and this is having a negative impact on teaching and learning. You may also be aware that the Government wants to clamp down on students having mobile phones in schools with much emphasis being placed on improving mental health and well-being.

After careful thought and consideration and having discussed this issue with student representatives across all our Houses and with staff, we are proposing restrictions on the use of mobile phones (earphones and other electronic devices) across the Academy from Monday 4 July 2022.

We acknowledge and appreciate that mobile phones are an important communication tool and that you and your child will heavily rely on them for safety reasons when travelling to and from school. The changes we are proposing will restrict their use during the school day, in and around the building, at break time and lunchtime and in lessons. There are several local schools that have recently implemented a similar policy and are reporting significant improvements in behaviour and conduct across their schools, including attitudes to learning.

Our concerns around mobile phone usage across the Academy are as follows but not limited to:

- Mobile phones are being used in lessons, ring tones and message alerts are sounding which is directly impacting on teaching and learning and distracting students from their work.
- Students are using their mobile phones in between lesson change overs. This is impacting lesson start times, punctuality, and attendance. Students arrive late whilst they 'take the call' or respond to a message which is causing direct conflict between students and staff.
- During social times, students are losing the desire to communicate positively with each other and develop and establish friendships as well as build and strengthen professional relationships with staff. This is hindering social and emotional development and impacting on their confidence to speak up and be heard.
- Excessive mobile phone usage can have a detrimental effect on student's mental health and wellbeing.
- Inappropriate mobile phone usage is a concern across the Academy and the frequency to which students being challenged by staff is increasing.
- Mobile phones are being used to access social media platforms. Some students are using the messaging tools within these platforms to send and receive hurtful and unpleasant communications. This has led to a disproportionate amount of time managing and dealing with this anti-social and unacceptable behaviour taking the focus away from teaching and learning.

To register your opinions on this issue please complete the form on the following link or scan the QR code:



<https://forms.office.com/r/EJPgsYnwSC>

This form will close on **Sunday 26 June 2022 at 6.00pm**. Opinions from you as parents/ carers, students and staff will then be taken into account before a final decision is made. Your feedback will be reviewed on Monday 27 June 2022 and a decision following this communication will follow shortly after.

We also intend to use Monday 4 July 2022 as the date from which we expect all students to be dressed in full school uniform and as per our uniform policy. Students will be expected to always look professional, which in turn will support our drive to raise standards, raise aspirations and instil a sense of personal pride. A number of our students wear their uniform impeccably and with a sense of pride and style. We want this to be commonplace and for all our students to always look exemplary. The following expectations will be upheld:

- Shirts will need to be tucked in and top buttons fastened, ties worn appropriately (neck to waistband)
- Blazers are to be worn at all times (unless informed by staff that they can be removed in classrooms and/or around the Academy in extreme temperatures)
- Black formal leather or synthetic leather shoes must be worn along with a pair of tailored trousers or an appropriately fitted tailored skirt to the knee.
- One single pair of stud earrings will be permitted in the ear lobes and all other ear or facial piercings will need to be removed or fitted with clear plastic retainers.

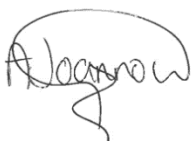
From this date the following items/accessories will no longer be accepted as per our uniform policy:

- Hoodies, or fashion jumpers or outdoor clothing around the Academy
- Hats or headwear other than those worn for religious purposes
- Jewellery other than earrings as noted above
- Sunglasses, except for prescriptions
- Excessive make-up or overt false eyelashes. Makeup and other personal enhancements will need to be of a natural and neutral colour/tone
- Extreme false acrylic/gel nails and nail designs
- Extreme hair colours

We do not expect parents/carers to replace uniform items by this date. In light of the pending summer holidays, we understand that this may not be the best time to replace uniform items that do not adhere to our uniform policy. However, there is an expectation that currently owned uniform items are worn correctly with no additional accessories and personal enhancements as noted above. From September 2022, we do expect all uniform items to adhere to our uniform policy and we will robustly enforce this.

I trust that you understand that the standards we are reinforcing and the changes we are proposing are all being made with the best intentions and the genuine desire to make Stanground Academy an outstanding educational provider; one that your child/children deserve.

Yours sincerely



**Andry Joannou**  
Deputy Principal