



ESHER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
MORE LANE, ESHER, SURREY KT10 8AP  
01372 468068 / head@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk  
www.esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk  
Headteacher : Mr A King

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Dear Parents/Guardians

As always, thank you for your continued support in working together to ensure the very best environment for your child to learn, grow and thrive. I'm writing to share an important and positive update to our school behaviour policy – one that we believe will make a real difference to student wellbeing and focus. This change will only impact Year 7 and 8 students this term. It will apply for all students in September.

From Monday 16 June, our behaviour policy will be updated with enhanced rules for mobile phones and connected devices. This includes consequences for mobile phone use in school and the introduction of a supportive digital tool called Blackout. This was closely scrutinised and approved by our Governors.

As ever, I want to be open and transparent. Blackout is a voluntary app, and when active, helps students reduce distraction by limiting access to apps like social media and games during the school day. The settings for students do **not** track location, access private files, or collect personal data beyond the student's school email, device type, and name – which are used to verify that the app is working properly. No other data is visible to the school or the app provider. All information is stored securely and fully compliant with UK GDPR. I send my praise and thanks to those families who have already set up strong parental controls for their children's devices. This makes the following of the school policy very easy for your children.

I want to reassure you again: the Blackout education version is *not* invasive. It does not allow the school or anyone else to see what is on your child's phone. It simply helps reduce the temptation to check notifications or scroll during the school day – something we know many young people struggle with. Students who do not use the app can still follow the school rule: phones off and in bags. For those who find this difficult, the app provides a gentle, structured support mechanism. To help allay concerns, we have created a short video to demonstrate the data captured by the app [here](#).

This change is not about punishment. It's about setting our students up for success – by removing a major distraction from their learning and relationships during school hours. It's a proactive step forward, and one that builds on the incredibly supportive partnership we are proud to have with our parent community.

The updated section of our behaviour policy, referring to the phone section, has been shared as an attachment to this letter. We also have a dedicated page on our [website](#) with the webinar from last week, the Q&A from the webinar, as well as other FAQs.

Thank you once again for your support as we help our young people develop healthier digital habits, improve focus, and make the most of their time at school.

Warm regards



Mr A King  
**Headteacher**

