



THE CORBET SCHOOL

Pastoral News

Welcome to The Corbet School's pastoral publication. Our aim is to draw the attention of parents/guardians to key issues that could affect pupils at school.

Social Media and Inappropriate Messaging



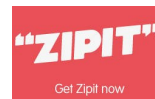
Mobile phones are becoming increasingly prevalent in everyday life and we are aware that pupils use them as a means of communicating with their friends and family as well as for access to games and the internet. Whilst we do appreciate that technology has brought positive developments in access to information and knowledge, we do also feel that it has a negative effect and causes disruption and distress, often as a result of inappropriate messaging, and can increase friendship issues. Our school rules state that the use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited whilst at school. If they are brought into school they must be switched off and stored in pupils' bags at all times.

A continuing issue being brought to our attention is the negative use of social media and also the sending and sharing of inappropriate messages and images. The use of mobile phones and other mobile technology is strictly prohibited in school but we would also ask for your support in monitoring and managing the use of these outside of school hours.

With regard to inappropriate messages and images of a sexual nature (known as sexting), these can often be seen as harmless, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- Share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- Possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created

As a school we have a duty to report any instances we are made aware of to the Police and/or other agencies. Please make your children aware of this. If you as parents/guardians find any inappropriate messages or images on your child's device please notify the Police. For pupils who are struggling to know how to respond to requests for inappropriate images ask them to take a look at "Zipit". This app is designed to help teenagers to deal with any such requests.



We would ask parents/guardians to:

- Regularly check your child's mobile phone, look at the apps they are using, who they are communicating with and how they are doing this.
- Ensure that privacy settings are set to prevent access from anyone they do not know both on the phone and on all of their apps.
- Become app savvy - understand what apps your child is using. Information is available online and via the links below.
- Set parental controls in place on all devices which have internet access.

For any parents/guardians worried about social media or inappropriate messaging please find links below for a selection of websites which you may find useful to refer to for guidance:

www.nspcc.org.uk www.net-aware.org.uk www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ www.ceop.police.uk



Free, safe and anonymous
online support for young
people

www.kooth.com is a provider of online mental health services for children and young people. They provide online counselling and emotional well-being support for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop, and this is all accessible to users free of charge. This is free, safe and anonymous. This is a great resource which could be particularly invaluable during holiday times. If you have any concerns you can also refer to your GP for further assistance. An assembly to introduce Kooth to all pupils is scheduled in the second week back in September.

Attendance

The Corbet School is renowned for its outstanding attendance. The school's overall attendance is 96%. Research suggests that children who regularly miss school may never catch up with the work they have missed. Also, some children find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates after prolonged or regular absences. We thank you for your continued support and co-operation with regard to school attendance. Following the high profile court case recently there has been some confusion as to what may or may not be permitted during term time. We are keen to reiterate that holidays are NOT permitted in term time.

School Uniform

We are aware that many of you will be updating uniform over the school holiday period. Please refer to the school website for full details <https://corbetschool.net/parents/school-uniform/>. We consider the wearing of school uniform to be a contributing factor in the pupils' self-esteem and their adoption of a positive work ethic. When setting out the guidelines about school uniform we expect the co-operation of parents. The school is very keen to maintain high standards of uniform. We would ask you for your continued support in ensuring that all skirts are purchased in non-stretchy material and will be to the knee in length on return in the new school year. We would also like to remind parents and pupils that pupils are not allowed to wear earrings, jewellery or make up (other than a light covering of skin tone foundation for pupils in year 9 or above). If pupils are having their ears pierced during the school holidays this must be done at the start of the six weeks' holiday so that they can be removed prior to starting back to school in September. The school will not allow earrings to be covered with plasters.



“Good luck to all Year 11 pupils following the completion of their exams. We wish them all the very best for their next steps and look forward to hearing updates from them in the future!”

Pastoral Staff

Mrs A Millward—Assistant Head Pupil Support
Mr M Hartshorn—Learning Manager
Mrs S Hall—Pastoral Support Assistant
Mr K Bridgewood—Pastoral Support Assistant
Miss B Wall—Pastoral Administration Assistant