

## Mobile Phone Policy: Pupils

Mobile phones, alongside other forms of technology are changing the way and speed in which we communicate. They can provide security and reassurance; however there are also associated risks - with access to a wide range of new content and services globally alongside the most often standard functions of messaging, camera, video and sound recording. Children and young people need to understand these risks and become responsible users.

St Mary of the Angels RC Primary School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones in school which provides teachers, pupils and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

Pupils and their parents/ guardians must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before pupils are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.

The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to pupils during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

### **Rationale**

Personal safety and security – we accept that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling to school alone. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child before and after school.

**Responsibility** - It is the responsibility of pupil who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or guardians. Permission to have a mobile phone at school while under the school's supervision is contingent on parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of the letter confirming parents have read and understood the policy. Parents/guardians and School may revoke approval at any time. The phone will be switched off and stored in the school office during the school day.

### **Acceptable Uses**

We appreciate that as mobile phone technology becomes increasingly sophisticated and powerful, mobile phones could be used as a learning tool within the classroom. However, at this time pupils may only use their mobile phone during lessons with the express permission of a teacher or other member of staff. At all other times, the phone will remain in the school office, switched off.

Pupils should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the pupil's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the receipt of insulting, threatening or unpleasant voice, text and picture messages.

### **Unacceptable uses – in and out of school**

- "ganging up" on another pupil or member of staff.
  - Mobile phones are not to be used or taken into changing areas or toilets.
  - To use their mobile phones to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate and humiliate others and then send the pictures to other pupils or upload it to a website for public viewing.
  - To use of mobile phones to photograph or film any pupil or any member of staff without their consent
  - To post images of others, without consent, on websites such as Facebook or "You tube",
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced. As such, if action as sanctioned by the Headteacher or the governing body is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.*

**Parents, visitors and contractors** are respectfully requested not to use their mobile phones in any of the designated mobile free areas. Should phone calls and/or texts need to be taken or made, use is restricted to those areas not accessed by children in order to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or disruption to others.

**Theft or damage**

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. Equally, the school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while about their person in school or travelling to and from school.

Pupils who infringe the rules set out in this document could face having their phones confiscated by teachers. The mobile phone would be taken to a secure place within the school and the pupil's parent informed. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile phone and the pupil will no longer be permitted to bring their phones into school.

I have read and understand the above information about responsible and respectful use of mobile phones and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used and shared with a third party e.g. the police if necessary

Pupil name (print)

Mobile phone number

Pupil signature

Date

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be required to hand the phone into the school office for safekeeping during the school day. I

I confirm that my child has read and understood the acceptable use policy and understands that this guidance applies to use of the phone at any time, where a member of the school community is involved.

Parent name (print)

Parent signature