

St Anne Stanley CE Primary School



Mobile Phones Policy

PURPOSE

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school leaders, staff, pupils and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at schools. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide can continue to be enjoyed by our pupils. Mobile phones are considered banned items unless used in accordance with this policy and as such can be searched and confiscated.

St Anne's Primary School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides staff, pupils and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

Pupils and their parents or carers, 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.

Use of mobile phones presents a number of problems, including:

- Mobile phones can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft.
- Mobile phones (and their cost and level of sophistication – or otherwise) can make pupils objects of envy or disparagement and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying.
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline and distract the pupils' learning.
- Use of phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution.
- The School's commitment to online safety and keeping every child safe, cannot be guaranteed if pupils are accessing the internet, within school, on the own personal device.

RATIONALE

St Anne's Primary School understands that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also parental concern regarding children walking to and from school. It is recognised that providing a child with a mobile phone doesn't make them safe, but rather gives parents and

pupils reassurance that they can contact each other if they need to speak urgently when travelling to and from school.

RESPONSIBILITY

Mobile phones should not be brought to school.

School advises all parents to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost, stolen or broken.

Permission to have a mobile phone at school while the child is under the school's supervision is dependent on Headteacher and parent/carer's permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy. The school or parent/carer may revoke approval at any time.

During school hours, the phone must remain switched off and kept in the school office. It may not be used for any purpose on school grounds or during off site school activities.

Parent/carer's should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

Where a child is found by a member of staff to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and only returned to a parent/guardian.

The staff reserve the right to view the content of any child's mobile phone at any time in respect of issues regarding the safeguarding of children.

This policy is linked to the school's behaviour policy. The school will treat breaches of this policy as they would treat any other breach of school rules and discipline accordingly.

ACCEPTABLE USES

Mobile phones should be switched off and kept in the school office.

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 unwanted messages and calls.

Pupils are advised not to use their mobile phones as they walk to school, unless there is an emergency, so that they are paying full attention to crossing roads and to avoid any potential theft.

UNACCEPTABLE USES

Mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, access the internet, take photographs or use any other applications during school time.

Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Using mobile phones to photograph or film any child is unacceptable.

Use of social media sites to harass or bully pupils is unacceptable.

THEFT OR DAMAGE

Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.

Pupils who have permission to bring their mobile phone to school should never leave it in their coat/bag when they arrive. Mobile phones are kept in the school office.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones whilst on the school premises.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost or stolen when travelling to and from school.

MOBILE PHONES FOR STAFF MEMBERS

Members of staff should not use their mobile phones in view of the children unless permission is granted by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher for emergency purposes only. Any staff member found using their phone in the vicinity of children will be disciplined under the school's discipline/capability procedure.

Policy to be reviewed every 3 years

Policy agreed by Governing Board:

Signed: *Chair of Governing Board*

Review Date: MAY 2020



Dear Mrs Simons,

RE: REQUEST FOR MOBILE PHONE IN SCHOOL

I wish to seek permission for my child _____
in class _____ to bring a mobile phone to school.

The reason for this request is:

- I have read the school's Acceptable Use of Mobile Phone Policy.
- I understand that the phone will be kept in the school office during the day, and that my child is responsible for taking it to and collecting it from the school office.
- I understand that the school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, damaged or stolen phones, whilst on the school premises.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Parent/Carer)

Signed: _____ Date: _____