

Mobile Phone Policy

Reviewed By	G.Webb and R.Toole
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Contents

1. Introduction and aims.....	3
2. Roles and responsibilities	3
3. Use of mobile phones by staff.....	3
4. Use of mobile phones by pupils	5
5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors	5
6. Loss, theft or damage	6
7. Monitoring and review.....	6
8. Appendix 1: Code of conduct for pupils	8
9. Appendix 2: Permission form for pupils to use mobile phones during lessons	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10. Appendix 3: Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school	
11. Appendix 4: Template mobile phone information slip for visitors.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Introduction and aims

At Park School we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents/carers and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents/carers and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, including the behaviour policy, safeguarding and child protection policy, acceptable use of ICT policy, Data Protection policy and Social Media policy.

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy annually, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The Headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number 01204 937115 as a point of emergency contact.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information, including entering such data into generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT and Google Bard).

Further information can be found in our Data Protection, Information Management and Retention policy and our Acceptable Use of ICT and Cyber Bullying policy

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents/carers or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents/carers or pupils

Staff should inform the Headteacher if a personal mobile phone has been used for work purposes and if any parents/carers or pupils have attempted to make contact via social media or messaging apps.

See the Acceptable use of ICT policy and Social Media policy for further details.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In all instances a school device should be sought in the first instance to avoid the use of personal devices. If a school device is unavailable approval should be sought from the Headteacher for the use of a personal device.

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents/carers. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or by using the withheld number feature.

3.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by the school for work purposes.

Only authorised staff are permitted to use school phones, and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.

Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communications, or using the internet
- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with our staff code of conduct.
- Adhere with the acceptable use of ICT policy in relation to the use of the work mobile phone or device.

3.6 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the trust's staff disciplinary and dismissals policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

Here at Park School we operate a no mobile phones policy. On entry to Park School pupils sign a code of conduct (appendix 1) agreeing to hand in their mobile phone on arrival.

When students arrive at school they must place their phone in their form group's wallet and place them on silent or switch them off. These wallets are then placed into the office administrators' office where they are supervised at all times. Students can then collect their phone at the end of the day.

The above procedure is also applicable during class trips, educational visits etc.

4.1 Sanctions

If a student decides not to follow procedure and is found with their mobile phone on their person they will be asked to hand this over, if the student refuses they will be reminded of the code of conduct and given a chance to talk or explain why they are unable to follow procedure. If the student refuses to comply their form tutor will be asked to contact the parent/carer to come in for a meeting to discuss the matter further.

Park School operates on a strict no phone policy. The reason for this is to avoid any use of social media during school time. Almost all of the students at Park School have had some kind of negative experience linking to social media, this has been found to have a detrimental effect of the individual's mental health.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governors, trustees and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school via a summary of the rules.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents/carers
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled and are stored securely when not in use.

Students must place their mobile phones into the correct form group wallet. All phones are then securely stored in the school office and supervised at all times.

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

All schools continue with:

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Pupils, parents and carers will be made aware of this during induction to the school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the senior leadership office in locked cabinet. Either the Headteacher or the deputy Headteacher will be responsible for the mobile phone.

Lost phones should be returned to either Mr Gareth Webb, Miss Rachael Beattie or Mrs Colette Unsworth. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents

- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

8. Appendix 1: Code of conduct for pupils

Home school agreement

1. Pupils are not required to wear school uniform, but must dress appropriately i.e. not dress in a way which may cause offense, embarrassment or anxiety to others.
2. For Health and Safety reasons chewing gum and smoking/vaping are not permitted on the premises.
3. Pupils may bring mobile phones into school but must hand them in on arrival and collect on departure. They will be allowed to use the centre phone if they need to make a call and parents can contact pupils via the centre phone.
4. Pupils are required to engage as much as possible whilst they are on site, but can request “time out” with a member of staff if required.
5. Pupils are required to go on daily, low impact, walks within the school day. Parents must inform staff if the child is unable to participate in this activity.
6. Pupils must be polite and respectful to others at all times and not prevent others from engaging.
7. Parents will be responsible for reporting absence to the office administrator either via email or phone call before 9:00 am on the day of absence.
8. Parents will inform Head of Centre if a pupil is bringing medication on site. This must be handed in to a member of staff on arrival with written instructions regarding dosage and frequency.

I agree to follow the above Code of Conduct at all times.

Signed Date

