



## **Mobile Phone and Wearable Device**

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

Written by Designated Safeguarding Lead

Frequency of review 2 years

Date reviewed and approved by Governing Body March 2023

Date of next review March 2025

Purpose The School ensures that there are clear guidance for staff, pupils, parents and visitors for use of mobile phones and wearable devices such as smart watches and fit bits.

Links with other policies Safeguarding & Child Protection

#### **Rationale**

At Burscough Village Primary School we accept that mobile technology is part of the ever changing, digital environment we live and work in. We very much aim to encourage responsible and appropriate use of technology rather than seeking to enforce unrealistic bans or restrictions.

We are, however, very aware of the possible dangers of the misuse of technology, specifically wearable devices. This policy therefore aims to provide guidance to staff, pupils, parents, and visitors. It aims to do this ensuring privacy is protected, online safety is preserved, and valuable equipment is looked after appropriately.

With the evolution of mobile and wearable technology including camera facilities as standard, it is of the utmost importance that the way we deal with mobile phones and wearable devices in school, is planned for.

#### **Policy**

##### **Aims:**

- Promote and set an example for safe and responsible device usage
- Set clear guidelines on acceptable use of devices
- Support The Federations other policies, especially those relating to safeguarding and child protection
- The policy aims to address some of the challenges posed by devices such as:
  - Risks to child protection
  - Data protection issues
  - Potential for disruption in lessons
  - Risk of theft, loss or damage

##### **Staff:**

All staff are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Classroom based staff are not permitted to make or receive calls or texts during contact time.



Phones should be switched off or put on silent mode and kept away from pupils, in personal bags or school cupboards during teaching/contact time with pupils.

Smart watches and Fitbits are permitted to be worn by staff but to be used only as a watch when working with children. Therefore, other functions must be disabled when staff are with the children.

Staff use of mobile phones and wearable devices during their working day should be:

- Appropriate only during break times.
- In keeping with professional responsibilities and expectations.

Staff should never contact pupils or parents via their own personal mobile and should not supply their mobile number to parents of children at the school.

Staff should never use their phones or wearable devices to take photographs of pupils or allow themselves to be photographed by pupils.

If during school trips/activity days etc. a member of staff wishes to take photographs these should be taken on a school iPad.

### **Misuse:**

Any member of staff found to misuse a mobile phone or wearable device will be subject to disciplinary action in line with the disciplinary procedure.

It is everybody's responsibility to enforce this policy, therefore any misuse of devices in classroom areas should be reported to the DSL in line with the safeguarding and whistleblowing policies and procedures.

### **Parents:**

We ask that parents do not encourage children to bring mobile phones to school. However, we recognise that for older pupils this may form part of securing an understanding of independence and personal safety as they look beyond the primary environment.

It is our firm belief that if a child needs to contact a parent or carer, they can do so swiftly from the school office. Similarly, if a message needs to be conveyed from a parent to a child, the school office will take these calls and pass the necessary information on promptly.

It is important that parents are aware that the school cannot take any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones belonging to parents or pupils on site.

### **Pupils:**

Smart watches/devices e.g. Fitbits are not allowed in school. This is because they are a distraction and may interrupt learning. Mobile phones are only allowed to be brought in by pupils in Year 6 and not others. It is a requirement that all our younger pupils are collected from school by a responsible adult. The need for a child of these ages to make telephone contact after school will therefore not arise.



### **Year 6 children:**

It is important that any parents allowing a phone to be brought into school are fully aware of how they will be looked after and the sanctions that will be imposed in the event of misuse.

- Phones are to be switched off
- Phones are to be handed into the class teacher and locked away at the beginning of the day. They will be returned at the end of the day in class.
- It cannot be guaranteed that these cupboards will be locked at all times as members of staff require access to resources/materials/possessions.
- The taking of photographs and video footage using a camera phone is strictly prohibited.
- Any children found to have taken photographs/videos will be asked to delete the photos in the presence of a member of the senior leadership team.

### **Misuse:**

Any children found to have made an infringement of the above expectations will be dealt with under the following guidelines:

- The school reserves the right to hold on to the phone and ask the parents/carer to collect from school.
- For serious incidents the school may withdraw the agreement to allow the child to bring the mobile phone to school.

### **Volunteers, Visitors and Contractors:**

Volunteers, visitors and contractors must adhere to this policy if on any site during the school day.

They must:

- Not take photos or recordings of pupils.
- Not use phones when working with children (volunteers/visitors).
- Keep mobile phones on silent when at school.
- Not use phones where pupils are present, or make a staff member aware if the need to use a mobile arises. They will then be escorted to a place away from pupils.

Visitors, volunteers and contractors will be made aware of this policy and the rules for mobile phone use when arriving at school.

### **Loss, Theft or Damage:**

Burscough Village Primary School accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or during travel to and from school.

Any found mobiles or devices should be handed in to the school office where contact with the owner will be attempted.