

**Learning, growing, achieving together**

***An Active Learning Trust Academy***

**Mobile Phones Policy**

**December 2019**

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| **Lead author/initiator(s):** | Head Teacher |
| **Approved by:** | M Lloyd |
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| **Ratified by:** | Local Governing Body (Isle of Ely & Chesterton Primary Schools) |
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| **SIGNATURES** | |
| **Chair of governors:** | |
| **Head Teacher:** | |
| **Review Timetable:** | Annual Review |
| **Review:** | The document should be updated annually after ratification or earlier if there is any new local or national guidance, changes in process or legislation. |
| **Purpose of Document:** | To comply with legislation including:  Working Together To Safeguard Children (July 2018)  Keeping Children Safe In Education (September 2018) |
| **Implementation:** | The policy can be accessed via the Staff Share and through any mandatory updates. |
| **Dissemination:** | The policy will be available to all staff, teaching and non-teaching, and to the wider public via the website. |

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1. **Introduction and aims**

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

This policy links to the following school policies; Data Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Staff code of conduct.

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 and volunteers
* Support the school’s other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour
* 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

**2.0 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 Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring the policy and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation. This policy will be reviewed annually.

**3.0 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 or during contact time. 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 staff room).

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 head teacher 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 01353 612818 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.

For more detailed guidance on data protection and ICT acceptable use, refer to our Data Protection Policy, and the Staff Handbook, section 2 – Safer code of conduct.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents 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 or pupils. For more detailed guidance on this, refer to the Staff Handbook, section 2 – Safer code of conduct.

Staff must not use their personal 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 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. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office

However, in most circumstances, a school mobile will be available, and authorised 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.

3.5 Sanctions

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

See the school’s staff disciplinary policy for more information.

**4.0 Use of mobile phones by pupils**

Pupils will be allowed to bring mobile phones to school, in the following circumstances;

* When travelling to or from school by themselves
* Young carers who need to be contactable

Pupils are allowed to bring phones to school, but should not use them during the school day. They must be handed to the class teacher on arrival, who will store them securely in the classroom (in a locked drawer or cupboard) and hand them back at the end of the school day.

4.1 Sanctions

If a pupil is found to be in breach of this policy, the following sanctions apply;

* Phones will be confiscated? (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/section/94))
* Confiscated phones will be stored securely and handed back at the end of the day.
* Sanctions may also be given in line with the school behaviour policy.

Staff also have the power to search pupils’ phones, as set out in the [DfE’s guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation). The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil’s phone if they have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.

Staff should take steps as set out in the Safeguarding Policy, and the Behaviour Policy if they find inappropriate content on a phone, or if they suspect inappropriate behaviour.

**5.0 Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors**

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors 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, 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.

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

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

Parents 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 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.

**6.0 Loss, theft or damage**

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

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.

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.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the classroom in locked cabinet or drawer.

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

**7.0 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 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

### Appendix 1

**Code of conduct/acceptable use agreement for pupils**

You must obey the following rules if you bring your mobile phone to school:

1. You may not use your mobile phone during lessons, unless the teacher specifically allows you to.
2. Phones must be switched off (not just put on ‘silent’).
3. You may not use your mobile phone in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other pupils.
4. You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils without their consent.
5. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don’t know, and don’t share other people’s contact details without their consent.
6. Don’t share your phone’s passwords or access codes with anyone else.
7. Don’t use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
   1. Email
   2. Text/messaging app
   3. Social media
8. Don’t use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal.
9. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone even when you aren’t in school.
10. Don’t use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school’s behaviour policy.
11. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or turn over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school’s behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.

### Appendix 2: Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school

| pupil details | |
| --- | --- |
| **Pupil name:** |  |
| **Year group/class:** |  |
| **Parent(s) name(s):** |  |

The school has agreed to allow [pupil name] to bring [his/her] mobile phone to school because [he/she]:

* Travels to and from school alone
* Is a young carer
* Attends before or after-school where a mobile phone is required for the activity or to contact parents.

Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must abide by the school’s policy on the use of mobile phones.

The school reserves the right revoke permission if pupils don’t abide by the policy.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pupil signature (where appropriate):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| For school use only | |
| --- | --- |
| **Authorised by:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

### Appendix 3: Template mobile phone information for visitors

Print out and display in reception foyer, drawing visitors’ attention to it when they arrive at your school.

Use of mobile phones in our school

* Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
* Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the school office or staff room.
* Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
* Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.