



# Micklefield C. E. (VC) Primary School

## Mobile Phone Use for Pupils

Mobile phones, and particularly smartphones with camera capability, have become increasingly popular in the past decade. We recognise that some of our pupils are likely to own a mobile phone by the time they leave Micklefield. We also recognise that many older pupils will travel to and from school independently, which is an important preparation for secondary school. Parents may wish them to have a mobile phone in order to make contact in an emergency.

However, smartphones are valuable items and there is a risk that they will be lost or damaged, which school cannot take responsibility for. There are also safeguarding risks in relation to pupils videoing or photographing other pupils, unrestricted access to the internet or social media on school premises, and the potential for bullying or inappropriate text messages to be sent between pupils.

For this reason, the school strongly discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school unless they have a specific reason for doing so.

To support pupils' developing independence, but to protect all pupils at Micklefield, the school has adopted the following policy on the use of mobile phones by pupils:

- All pupils are strongly discouraged from bring mobile phones to school unless they have a very good reason for doing so. The ability to make emergency contact on the journey home will be the most likely reason for pupils in older years who travel independently.
- Phones must be turned off at all times on school premises, including the playground before and after school, and in the cloakroom areas.
- Pupils must hand in their phone to Mrs Sanderson in the school office first thing in the morning, where it will be locked away until home time.
- Parents must be advised that the school accepts no responsibility for the loss of or damage to mobile phones. Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing valuable phones to be brought into school.
- Pupils' phones must be clearly marked with their names.
- Parents are readily able to contact the school office in an emergency or to get a message to their children, and will be reminded of this if necessary.
- Parents need to complete the mobile phone parental consent form prior to their child bringing a phone to school.

If a pupil is found to be using a phone on school premises during the school day, including in the playground before and after school, the phone will be confiscated and locked in the school office. Parents will be contacted, reminded of the school policy and asked to collect the phone.

Any inappropriate use of a phone on school premises (eg taking photos, sending unkind/inappropriate messages, accessing inappropriate content on the internet) is a serious matter which will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

The school reserves the right to withdraw permission for a pupils to bring a mobile phone to school if the above rules are broken.



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## Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child needs to bring a phone to school, please complete the attached form to give your permission and explain the reason your child needs a phone in school. Please make sure that your child understands the school rules about mobile phone use. These are very important and are in place to protect all of our pupils.

### School Rules on Mobile Phones

- We strongly discourage pupils from bringing phones to school, as there is a risk of phones being lost, damaged or used inappropriately in school. Parents can always get a message to pupils by calling the school office.
- If a pupil has a need to bring a phone to school, their parent must complete this permission slip and hand it to the class teacher.
- Phones must be turned off at all times on school premises (including on the playground before and after school, and in the cloakroom areas).
- Pupils must take their phone to Mrs Sanderson in the school office when they arrive at school. Their phone will be locked in the office until the end of the school day.
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones. Please avoid sending valuable phones to school if at all possible.
- Pupils' phones should be clearly marked with their name.
- If a pupil is found to be using a phone on school premises, this is a serious matter and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Whether at home or at school, please remember that mobile phones provide easy access to the internet which is full of fantastic opportunities but can also be a very risky place. It is important that we all work together to keep children safe. We strongly recommend that you enable parental controls on your child's phone, and talk to your child about how to stay safe online. This website has good advice;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

Thank you for your support.

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### Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

I give permission for (child's name) \_\_\_\_\_ to bring their mobile phone into school.

My child requires their mobile phone in school because

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I have read the policy and understand its implications

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this slip to your child's teacher. Thank You**