

# The Meadows School



## Mobile Phone Policy

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## Amendment Register

Amendment Number	Date	Detail	Amended By	Approved By
0	13/01/2023	First Issue	A.Benjamin	
1	10/02/2023	Updated to include work emails on phones	A.Benjamin	

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## **1. Rationale**

At the Meadows School we recognise that mobile phones play an important part in our lives as a device for communication. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the welfare and well-being of our students, and the aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from using the mobile phone, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools.

The enhanced functions of many mobile phones cause the most concern, offering distractions and disruption to the working day, and which are most susceptible to misuse - including the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. However, as it is difficult to detect specific usage, this policy refers to ALL mobile communication devices.

Please note for the purpose of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' covers all electronic devices with the capacity to be used as a form of communication, through the device itself or any applications on the device.

## **2. Introduction**

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones on site including the reception area. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, children, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive. This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

## **3. Staff - Personal Mobiles**

- Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children.
- In an emergency, staff who need to make a personal call during a lesson should first speak to their line manager to ensure there is adequate cover. If staff need to use the phone for an emergency, they can be used in the staff room or in an area not used by children.
- Staff should have their phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer, handbag or pocket) during class time.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (e.g. classroom, playground)
- Use of phones (inc. receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to non-contact time (break times) when no children are present e.g. in office areas, staff rooms.
- It is also advised that staff security protect access to functions of their phone.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to take any images or use recording equipment on their mobile phones, for example: to take recordings of children, or sharing images.

- Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as iPads.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.
- Staff should not need to make work calls on their personal phones, however if under any circumstances a staff member is required to make a work call on their own mobile phone either mobile or landline you are advised to use the prefix 141 before dialling the recipient's number to ensure their own number is protected.
- If staff choose to have work emails on their personal phone:
  - The phone should be locked when left unattended by either a PIN, password, biometric print or any other form of security.
  - The lockout length should be the shortest time possible.
  - Emails should be logged out once finished.
  - No documents can be download onto a personal phone.

#### **4. Students - Personal Mobiles**

- We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping students to feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can provide a means of bullying or intimidating others.
- Students are not permitted to have mobile phones at school or on trips
- Any mobile phone that has been brought into school will be confiscated immediately and handed back at the end of the school day.
- If in the rare event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school to contact the parent after school:
  - the parent must discuss the issue first with the head teacher.
  - the phone must be handed in, switched off, to the office first thing in the morning and collected from the office by the child or class teacher at home time (the phone is left at the owner's own risk).
  - Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day
- If any member of staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone has been brought into school by a student and has unsuitable material stored on the device, the student will be required to hand it over to the staff member immediately and the parents will be asked to collect the phone from a member of SLT.

#### **5. Mobile Phones for offsite activities**

Mobile phones will be collected from school reception when the visit lead is collecting the trip pack. The phone will be signed out and signed back in on returning from the trip, along with the trip pack. The use of mobile phones on a school trip is beneficial to ensuring the safety of all members on the school trip. It is important that the following guidance is followed in order to keep the children safe and also protect staff and volunteers from accusations of inappropriate use.

- The trip lead and deputy are in charge of the mobile devices, the mobile can be used to contact school and the emergency services.
- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs or recordings of children).
- Mobile phones should not be used to make contact with parents during school trips – all relevant communications should be made via the school office.

- Members of staff on a trip may carry their own personal mobile following the guidelines below:
- Any calls must be made away from pupils and should only be used to contact staff members on a trip, the school or emergency services.
- Under no circumstances should personal phones be used for any other purpose other than school business for the duration of the trip. On residential visits this will apply while the staff member is on duty. Staff can give their next of kin the school number to contact the trip lead in case of an emergency.
- Mobile phones will not be used to make recordings or take photographs of the students.
- The trip leader can ask other staff members for their mobile number in case of an emergency, but the numbers need to be deleted of the device before returning the phone to the school reception.

## **6. Parents, Carers, Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors**

- All Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors are expected to follow our mobile phone policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises. On arrival, such visitors will be informed of our no mobile phone policy within school including the reception area.
- We do not allow parents or carers to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports days.

## **7. Work Mobile Phones**

There are currently 20 work phones registered on the school site for school use. The work phone should be used in accordance to the following guidance:

## **8. SLT and Site Staff**

- Only the person responsible should be using the phone, the phone must not be used by any other member of staff or anyone not employed by the Meadows.
- It is the responsibility of the phone holder to ensure the phone is kept safe and only used for school purposes not personal calls.
- The phone holder will make every possible effort to ensure the phone is not used when students are around, however this is not always possible.
- Phones will not be used to take any photos or recordings of children
- Personal phone calls are not permitted on the mobile device.

## **9. Classroom phones**

- It is the responsibility of the class staff to ensure the classroom phone is out of sight
- Phones will be used as a method of communication for the classes in the new build until a permanent landline phone has been installed.
- The phone must not be used for taking photos or recordings at any time
- It is the responsibility of class staff to ensure the phone is fully charged and in credit.

## **10. Dissemination**

The mobile phone policy will be shared with staff and volunteers as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school website.