



Name of Policy:

Mobile Phone Policy

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Introduction and Aims

At Wallace Fields Junior School the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, 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. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that 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.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones on site. This includes staff, volunteers, committee members, 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](#)
- Guidance on the Use of photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools

Code of conduct

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other; thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse
- Know how to minimise risk
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations
- Understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use
- Are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours
- Are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly

It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

Personal Mobiles – Staff

- Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office. 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 (including receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to non-contact time when no children are present e.g. in office areas, staff room, empty classrooms.

- It is also advised that staff security protect access to functions of their phone.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then staff should make the Head teacher aware of this and can have their phone in case of having to receive an emergency call.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to 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 cameras and iPads.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on off-site activities. However, staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs of children).
- Where parents are accompanying trip's they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking) during the trip or use their phone to take photographs of children.

Personal Mobiles - Pupils

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for some children. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can be damaging to the child and provide a means of bullying or intimidation. They also leave a child open to the dangers of the internet if they have access via their phone. From September 2024, all smartphones are banned and only 'feature phones' or 'dumb phones' are permitted in school.

Therefore:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones at school or on trips.
- All phone must be handed in, switched off, handed to the office first thing in the morning and collected from them by the child at home time (the phone is left at the owner's own risk).
- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and collected by the parent directly from the office.
- If a child brings smartphone to school it will be confiscated and collected by the parent directly from the office.
- Mobiles must be labelled with the owners name and handed in at the start of the school day and collected at the end of the school day.
- On collection, pupils are not permitted to use or operate mobile phones until off the school site.
- Phones cannot be used on the school site at any times including during clubs.
- If a child retains or uses a mobile phone on school premises the phone will be confiscated, taken to the office for collection by the parent directly from the office.

Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the head teacher does have the authority to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site' - refer to Anti-Bullying Policy.

Trackers and Smart Watches

Pupils will not be allowed to have mobile phones, smart watches or other devices on school premises, or to take them on visits or other school initiated activities. This includes any tracking devices including apple air tags or android tags.

Fitness and activity trackers are permissible for pupils providing they have no mobile or internet connectivity and/or capabilities such as those documented above. A fitness tracker that can make calls, message, take or display pictures, is deemed as creating a distraction or provides any information beyond fitness and activity data will be confiscated and parents will be required to visit the school to have the device returned to them in person

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 visitors will be informed of our expectations around the use of mobile phones.

Parents

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication at all times.

We therefore ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is *courteous* and *appropriate* to the school environment.

We also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones – **but insist that parents do not publish images (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own.** Please refer to Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools.

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 office and website.