

THE STOKE POGES SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy

Governors Committee Responsible for the Policy	Finance, Pay and Personnel Committee
Date Approved	September 2021
Recommended Review Period	Biennial
Date for Review	September 2023
Person Responsible for the Policy	Headteacher

Introduction and Aims

At The Stoke Poges 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. 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, 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:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policy
- Photography and Video Policy
- Social Media Policy

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 call/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 (eg. classroom, playground).

- Use of phones (inc. 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 Headteacher 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.
- Staff must password or pin protect their phones.

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.
- Mobile phones should not be used to make contact with parents during school trips – all relevant communications should be made via the school office (or after hours on a school mobile phone).
- Where parents are accompanying trips 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 many children and that they can play an important role in helping pupils 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. Therefore:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones at school or on trips.
- 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 their child's teacher.
 - The phone must be handed in, switched off, 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 risk).
- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

When mobile phones are used in and out of school to bully or intimidate others, the Headteacher does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site' (please see Behaviour Policy).

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 expectations around the use of mobile phones.

Parents

All mobile phones should be switched off whilst on the school site. We do 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 Photographs and Videos Policy.

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.

Headteacher		Date	
Chair of Governing Board Committee		Date	