

Introduction

At Oakdale Primary 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 communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust 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. It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

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).
- Mobile phones should not be used to make contact with parents during school trips: the school mobile will be taken on all trips and will only be used in the case of an emergency. Where possible any direct contact with parents will be communicated to the school prior to contact. Generally, all relevant communications should be made via the school office.
- 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.

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. **Video calling is not allowed on site. Photographs must not be taken.** The Nursery have their own policy and do not allow any mobile phones in the vicinity of their site. 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 school.

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.

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.

Oakdale Primary School Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy 2023



Personal Mobiles - Staff

- Staff members 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 (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 members 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 tablets. If this is required as an exceptional circumstance e.g forgotten camera on a school trip, permission will be sought and the member of SLT will ensure that the images are taken off the member of staff's phone upon immediate return to school.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher .

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 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 phone must be handed in, switched off, to the class teacher 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 returned at the end of the day.
- Pupils who have smart watches are not permitted to wear them to school for safeguarding purposes.

Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the head teacher 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' This may include confiscation of the mobile phone - refer to Anti-Bullying Policy.