



St James C E Primary School

Mobile Phone Usage Policy

The use of mobile phones is increasing these days and so it would be unrealistic to have a policy which **forbids** pupils from taking phones to school. Not only would it be impractical to forbid pupils from carrying them when the latest phones are so slim that they could be hidden easily, but it is believed that a number of parents would be concerned for health and safety reasons if their child were not allowed to carry a phone at all. Some parents feel more at ease knowing that they can be contacted in the event of any emergency situation that might arise.

Use of mobile phones (particularly with the invention of increasingly sophisticated equipment and camera phones) presents a number of problems for our school, including:

- (i) Mobile phones can be valuable items and might be vulnerable to theft.
- (ii) Mobile phones (and their cost and level of technology - or otherwise) can pose problems in school with regards to discipline and potential bullying.
- (iii) Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be distracting in terms of classroom discipline.
- (iv) Use of the newer phones with built-in cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate photographs or distribution of images.

Policy Statement

It is therefore school policy to prohibit the unauthorised use by pupils of mobile phones whilst on our school premises, grounds or on trips or activities eg. school swimming.

1. St James C E Primary School discourages and advises all parents to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen. **School staff can accept no responsibility for mobile phones which are lost, damaged or stolen in school whilst in the possession of any pupil.**
2. Pupils are allowed to have mobile phones for emergency purposes only. Parents must notify the Head Teacher in writing if their child needs to have a mobile phone at school. i.e Parents are required to complete the attached form. All mobile phones must be handed into the school office during the registration period. Children will need to collect mobile phones from the office as they leave the school grounds. Once a form has been signed both by parent and Head Teacher, the school will agree for the mobile phone to be in school **on the understanding that the school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen mobile phones, even if they have been stored in a place of "safe-keeping"**.
3. If pupils are found with mobile phones, the mobile phone will be placed in the school office; a phone call will be made home and the mobile phone left to be collected by the parents at their convenience.
4. If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and action will be taken in accordance with the school's Behavioural Policy.
5. If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a teacher.



Request for a pupil to bring a mobile phone into school

Name of Pupil _____ Class _____

Make of Mobile Phone _____

Number of Mobile Phone _____

Declaration:

I am the parent / guardian of _____ in class _____

I have read the School Policy on Mobile Phones in School and understand and agree with the terms and conditions in that policy.

Signed: _____ (parent / guardian)

For Office Use

Request Approved? Yes No

Signed _____