

# **BROOMFIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL**



## **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

**2021-2022**

## **Introduction and aims**

At Broomfields Junior School we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

### **2.1 Staff**

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every two years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

## **3. Use of mobile phones by staff**

### **3.1 Personal mobile phones**

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present/during contact / teaching time. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room / classrooms once children have left).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number as a point of emergency contact.

### **3.2 Data protection**

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's data protection policy and ICT acceptable use policy

### **3.3 Safeguarding**

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

### **3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes**

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Emergency situations within school
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil – if for whatever reason, a photograph or video does need to be taken, it must be wiped within 24 hours
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or enable 'no caller ID'

## **4. Use of mobile phones by pupils**

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils are prohibited from bringing a mobile phone to school. We recognise however, that pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 may need to use their phone for travelling to and from school by themselves if parents think that this is appropriate.

Pupils are allowed to bring phones to school with agreed permission and these must be stored in their bag during the day.

Pupils must adhere to the school's code of conduct for mobile phone use (see appendix 1)

The school reserves the right to revoke permission if pupils don't abide by the policy.

## 4.1 Sanctions

- Phones will be confiscated if a pupil is in breach of this policy. Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#).
- If a phone is confiscated, a parent / carer must collect it from the school office at the end of the day.
- Staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil's phone if there is reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.
- Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

## 5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors

Phones must only be used in staff-only areas of the school.

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

## **6. Loss, theft or damage**

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Disclaimers regarding this are on the permission forms that must be signed for bringing a phone to school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the school office until collected by a parent / carer. If the school confiscates phones from pupils it becomes responsible for the phone, and it can be held responsible for the loss, theft or damage. To mitigate this, phones will be stored in the school office until collected by a parent / carer following communication from the member of staff.

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

## **Appendix 1: Code of Conduct / acceptable use agreement for pupils – MOBILE PHONES**

I agree not to bring a personal mobile phone to school unless my parent / carer has permitted me to do so in writing.

If I do bring my phone to school, I will turn it off and keep it in my bag.

### **Mobile phone rules to follow in school:**

1. Turn your phone off before you enter the school premises.
2. Do not turn your phone on until you have left the school premises.
3. Do not take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils without their consent.
4. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
5. Do not share your phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else.
6. Do not use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
  - a. Email
  - b. Text/messaging app
  - c. Social media
7. Do not use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal.
8. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone even when you aren't in school.
9. Don't use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour and attitudes policy.
10. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or turn over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour and attitudes policy and will be dealt with accordingly.

## **Appendix 2: Template mobile phone information slip for visitors**

### **Use of mobile phones in our school**

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the staffroom
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.