

“Each one of you is a child of God” Pope Francis



**All Saints is educating for Unity,
Responsibility, Courage, Wisdom and Generosity**

Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction and aims

At All Saints Primary 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:

- › Challenge the mindset that children need to carry a mobile phone in order to be safe.
- › Provide our children with an environment free from the distraction and responsibility of carrying a mobile phone.
- › Safeguard pupils and staff and protect their right to privacy.
- › 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 and Safeguarding
- › Data protection issues (images or recordings of staff or children without consent)
- › Potential for lesson disruption
- › Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- › Risk of being knocked down while using a phone
- › Risk of being a target for street theft on the way to or from school

This policy has been written taking into account the DFE Mobile phones in schools Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.

No mobile phones on the school premises – A school may decide that no mobile phones should be brought to school by its pupils, and they must be left at home or with parents. This policy provides a very simple boundary which is straightforward to enforce as any mobile phone found at school would be in breach of the policy – DFE, February 2024

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Parents

Parents have an important role in supporting the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, they may do so through the school office – 0151 257 5566

2.2 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 Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring the policy annually.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

Pupils are strictly forbidden from bringing a mobile phone into school under any circumstances, including whilst on residential trips.

4.1 Sanctions

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)

- 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 you to search a pupil's phone if you have 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.
- Confiscated phones will be stored in the School Office in a secure location/locked cabinet and will only be returned when a parent/carer comes to school to collect.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting
- 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.
- Engaging in activity that potentially puts themselves and/or others at risk.

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers on the school site

Parents/Carers 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 making recordings of staff or pupils, even of their own child
- Please switch off your mobile phone while in the school building

Under no circumstances should meetings with school staff be recorded covertly.

6. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips.