



St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Mobile Phone and Wearable Technology Policy

Issue: January 2025

Review Date: January 2027

Our School Vision

As a school community, we aspire to develop life-long learners who have the confidence to explore the world around them and grow as unique individuals. We provide a safe family environment, inspired by Christian values, in which the flourishing of each enables the flourishing of all.

'This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!'

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:15

Introduction

At St. Michael's CE Primary School, the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. This policy on the use of mobile phones in school has been drawn up in the best interests of pupil safety and staff professionalism.

The staff and governors of St Michael's recognise that pupils and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents request that their child bring a mobile phone to school for safety and security reasons, particularly those who walk to and from school independently, who we would mostly only expect to be the case for pupils in Year 5 or Year 6.

Use of mobile phones

Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones in school or on school trips. The only exception being if a parent wishes for his/her child to bring in a mobile phone to school for emergencies if walking to and from school without an adult. If this is the case and school has been informed, the phone must be switched off and handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning and collected from class teacher at home time. All mobiles should be clearly marked with their names. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss, damage or cost incurred due to its use. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any way.

Use of Smart Watches or Wearable Technology

Although we encourage children to wear watches to help develop their understanding of time, please do not allow your child to wear a smart watch, or any watch that has similar functionality as a mobile phone or a computer device on the school site (e.g. access to features such as messages, phone calls, videos, photos, music, recordings, a camera or games). There is no reason why any child should need to access any of these type of functions during the school day. It would be near impossible for our staff to monitor that these kind of devices are being used appropriately or inappropriately; therefore, if a child wears such a device to school, the teacher will collect the device, keep it safely until the end of the day and return it to the child to take home. If a device is repeatedly worn, the child's parents or carers will be asked to collect the device.

Pupils

- Pupils should not use their mobile phones to make calls, send text messages, use the internet, take photos or use any other application during the school day or whilst on the premises. If a photo is taken, the child will be asked to remove the image immediately.
- Mobile phones are not to be used or taken into changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow peers, staff or visitors to the school.
- Should a child be seen with a mobile phone on school premises, the phone will be confiscated and parents will be advised that they can collect the phone from the school office.
- Pupils must ensure that they use passwords, pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made by any other persons. Pupils must ensure that they keep their pin numbers/ passwords confidential at all times.

Staff

- Staff should never send or accept texts or images from pupils nor should they send any negative messages about children, staff or the school.
- Staff may not make or receive calls during teaching time or when on duty. If there are extreme circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative or personal health conditions the member of staff will have made the leadership team aware of this and can have their phone to receive an emergency call).
- Staff must have their phone switched off or on silent during class time and not on display.
- Calls or texts must be made or received in private during non-contact time. All private calls must be made away from children.
- Staff should avoid using mobile phones during meetings unless in a case of an emergencies.
- Staff must not use phones to store children's personal data.
- Staff should carry a mobile phone to sporting fixtures away from school or on an educational visit. During which, mobile phones should only be used in emergencies to make contact with parents during school trips - all relevant communication must be made via the school office. In an event where this is not possible, all staff must use bar caller ID which is **141** before dialling.
- Staff should never give their mobile number to pupils or parents. If a member of staff needs to contact parents, they should use the telephone in the school office.
- It is highly advised that all staff should use a school camera or iPad for taking photos. If a mobile phone is used to take pictures, staff must upload the images as soon as possible onto the school server and then they must be deleted from the device and any back-up storage immediately.

Parents and other visitors

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 (including not using a mobile phone/ texting whilst talking to school staff). We 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 other children unless they have the other parents' permission.

- We request that visiting adults, parents and volunteers refrain from using mobile phones in the communal areas of the school building.
- We request that visiting adults, parents and volunteers do not make private calls or send messages when on school trips and when in the presence of children.
- Visiting adults, parents and volunteers must not take pictures of other children using their mobile phones without permission from other parents.
- Parents, volunteers and guardians should not place images of other children taken at school on social media sites without permission from other parents.
- Where parents are accompanying school visits, they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking) during the visit.

Inappropriate use:

A mobile phone will be used inappropriately if;

- used to intimidate, bully or harass other pupils or adults through text messages, photographs, video or other data transfer system available on their phone

For further information on how to talk to your child about correct use of mobile phones and keeping children safe online, please refer to the school website and our E-Safety Policy.



St Michael’s Church of England Primary School

Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer

In accordance with our mobile phone policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone to school on a regular basis, please could you sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

Upon entering the school site, mobile phones will be switched off and will then be handed to the class teacher during registration and will be given back at the end of the day. Please note, the school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone. Your child’s phone should be appropriately marked so that they can recognise it.

Should your child be found using their phone inappropriately and not according to the school policy, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their phone into school.

Kind regards

Jo Leanfear
Head of School

MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT

I/we give permission for our child (name) in

Year to bring their mobile phone into school for emergency purposes when they walk to and/or from school without an adult.

We have read the policy and understand its implications.

Signed Date.....