



**The Meadows**  
Primary School

## **Mobile Device Policy**

### **Introduction and Aims**

At The Meadows 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 modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable 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.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones and other devices on site. This includes staff, volunteers, children, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive.

This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Photographic Images and Videos Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Volunteers Code of Conduct

### **Code of conduct**

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other; thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- know how to minimise risk.
- avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.
- understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly.

It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

### **Personal Mobiles - Staff**

- Staff 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 (eg. 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 expected 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. It is noted that the school office is not manned continuously.
- Staff 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 kindles.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

### **Mobile Phones for work related purposes:**

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on offsite activities. Where possible the school mobile phone should always be used. However staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs of children).
- Personal mobile phones should not be used to make contact with parents during school trips - all relevant communications should be made via the school office or using the school mobile.
- 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.

### **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:

- We discourage pupils to have mobile phones at school.
- 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 parent must email the office explaining the circumstances. In all cases the phone must be handed in, switched off, to the office first thing in the morning and collected from them by the child at home time (the phone is left entirely at the owner's own risk).
- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- Should the school be made aware of any inappropriate use of the phone whilst on school premises, parents will be informed and requested to ensure their child's phone is not brought into school in the future.
- Pupils are not permitted to wear smart watches at school.

All volunteers, visitors, members of the Academy Council 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.

## Parents and Carers

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones whilst 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. However, we do request that whilst parents are inside the school building, they refrain from using their phone. Posters are displayed in school to act as a reminder. We ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the external premises is courteous and appropriate to the school environment. We also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile devices - 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 Schools*. Should the school be informed that parents, carers and other family members have not complied with the school's expectations, then the school will review the freedom to take photographs and videos at such events. Parents will be informed of this via newsletters and verbally at the start of all performances.

## Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

## 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.

	Signature	Date
Chair of the Academy Council		17.9.19
Headteacher		17.9.19