

Seaview Primary School



Mobile Phone Acceptable User Policy

Rationale

At Seaview Primary School we recognise that many children and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child brings a mobile phone to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore, the school strongly discourages children from bringing mobile phones to school.

The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Guidelines for Staff

During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode. **Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.** Staff are not permitted to use mobile phones whilst carrying out any duty that involves supervision or contact with children, with the exception of trips and visits where their use is permitted to facilitate the health and safety of the members of the party.

Guidelines for Children

In general, children should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child. When children enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

There are no reasons why a child needs to have in their possession, or use a mobile phone, during the school day. Parents are reminded that, in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact. Staff there can ensure that a child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Children are advised that, if they have to bring a mobile phone into school for a genuine reason, they must hand the phone in at the office before school, and collect it at the end of the school day. The phone will be secured in the office and children can retrieve their phone at the conclusion of the day. If children do bring a mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.

Sanctions

In line with our Behaviour Management Policy, if a child fails to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to child or parent at the end of the day).
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school.

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts, or is likely to disrupt, the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school;
- Threatens, or is likely to threaten, the safety or well being of any person;
- Is in breach of any law.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include children using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Behaviour Management Policy.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, iPads and similar devices.