



## OLD LEAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### Mobile Phone Policy

#### Introduction and Aims

At Old Leake 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 on site. This includes staff, volunteers, committee members, 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
- Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools

#### 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 or handbag) during class time.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (eg. Classroom, playground, Breakfast Club and After School Club).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 ipads.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

**Any inappropriate use of a mobile phone by staff will result in disciplinary action.**

### **Mobile Phones for Work Related Purposes**

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on off-site activities. However staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional.
- Where parents are accompanying trips they are informed not to use their phone to take photographs of children other than their own.

### **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 from bringing their phones into school but where a pupil does bring one in, the phone must remain switched off during the school day and may not be used for any purpose on school premises or during off-site school activities (such as swimming or sports).
- The phone should be given to class teacher by 08:45 and will be returned at 3:15. Under no circumstances should there be access to phones during the school day or be left in pupils' bags, coats or folders.

- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the headteacher does have the power to intervene to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site.

### **Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors**

All Volunteers, Visitors, Governors 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**

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.

We also 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 children other than their own.

Please refer to Using Children's Images policy.

### **Dissemination**

The mobile phone policy will be shared with staff, volunteers, work experience students and those on placements as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school office and website.

**Next review January 2023**