



ST. ANNE'S COPP CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL,
GREAT ECCLESTON



MOBILE PHONE POLICY



“Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:18)

SEPTEMBER 2024

Approved by GB: September 2024
Next review due: September 2026

In building solid foundations for every unique individual and putting God's love at the centre of all we do, our children learn to embrace our diverse world. We encourage our children to learn universally in order to understand our heritage and roots as a village, town, region and nation. Through strong community links, our children grow in **compassion and **understanding**, promote **justice** and possess commitment and **aspire** to make a positive difference. We offer an ambitious curriculum that ignites **curiosity** along with high personal expectations that fosters **resilience** and which enables them to flourish. Our children are easily distinguished by the **courage** they show when making brave choices and understand the importance of becoming the very best versions of themselves.**

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones on our school site.

The staff and Governors of St.Anne's Copp Church of England Primary School, Great Eccleston recognise that many pupils and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring 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 the bringing of mobile phones to school by pupils. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

At St.Anne's Copp Church of England Primary School, Great Eccleston, we are also aware of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential risk for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

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.

Aims

To inform all members of our school community about the appropriate and safe use of mobile phones at our school. To outline the procedures and processes of this policy:-

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, personal mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.
- Staff are not permitted to use personal devices for photography in school
- Furthermore, within the Early Years Setting at our school and to ensure the safety and welfare of our children in our care, personal mobile phones are not permitted within this setting, when in the presence of children; this is a statutory requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.
- When on trips, mobile phones may only be used to make or receive phone calls relating directly to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children
- Driving and mobile phone use:

Using a hand held mobile phone while driving is illegal. This applies to use by a driver, of all hand held mobile phones unless the vehicle is parked safely, according to traffic regulations, with the engine switched off (which is also discouraged and exceptional).

- Staff should use their phones during non-contact time and within areas of the school where pupils are not present.

PUPILS

- In general, pupils should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often stressful for a primary age child.
- If an older pupil (Years 5/6) choose to bring a mobile phone into school, these will be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day. Teachers keep mobile phones in a safe space, and do not accept responsibility for any personal possessions whilst at school. 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.
- Should a pupil attend Breakfast or After-School provision, the above rule will apply for handing phones straight to staff members.
- There are no reasons why a pupil 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 and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- If pupils do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.

Parents

- Parents are always reminded by staff at class or large-scale school events that images of children should not be posted on social media and to focus on their own child. Permissions regarding parents using phones for pictures apply to special events such as : sports days/sports events/school productions with the Headteacher's permission.
- Parents should not place images of other children taken at school on social media sites without permission from the parents involved. School does not accept any part in a parent posting images following a reminder from school.
- School does not permit the recording of any meetings or discussions on a mobile device (or similar) without prior consent from staff.

Sanctions

In line with our Behaviour Management Policy, for pupils who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to pupil or parent at the end of the day)
- normal classroom sanctions
- communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school
- a pupil being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds.

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 pupils using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video, social networking or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Behaviour 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, smart watches, iPads and similar devices.

Exemptions

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Headteacher and then only in exceptional circumstances.