



Bridgelea Primary School
Bridgelea Road
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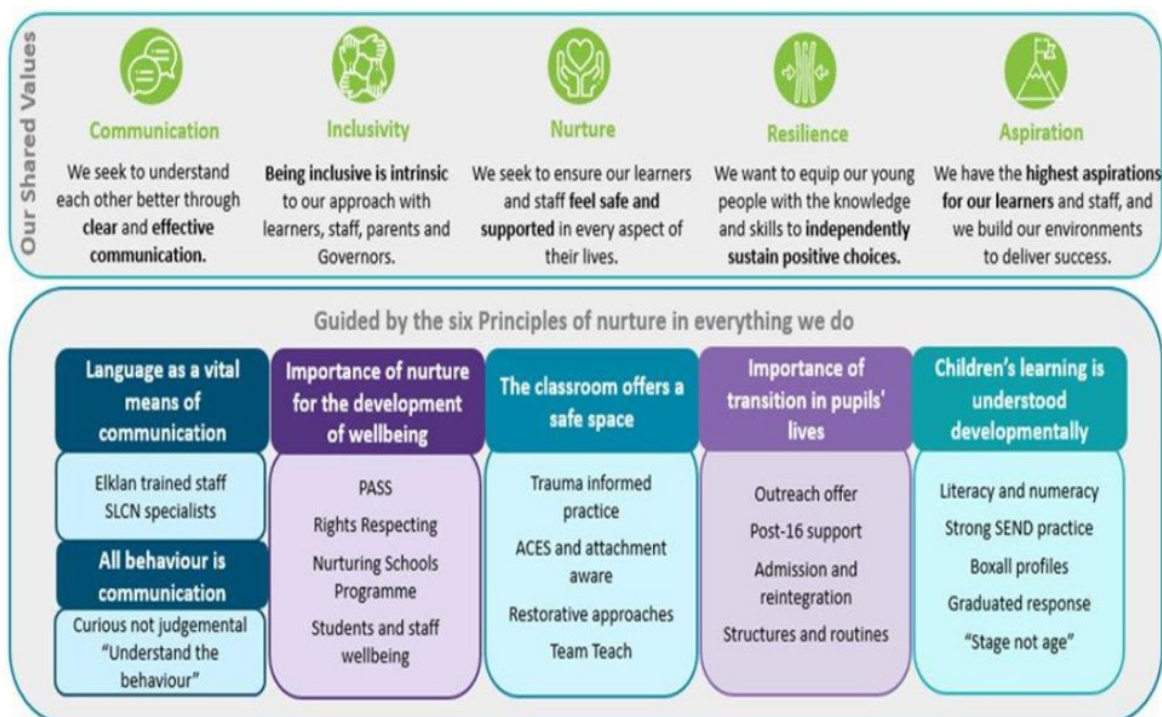
Bridgelea Primary School
Plymouth Grove West
Longsight
Manchester
M13 0AQ

Mobile Phone Policy

Implemented	SLT
Presented by	Lisa Shaw
Ratified by Governors	November 2024
Review Date	September 2026

Bridgelea Primary School Vision & Mission Statement

Our overall vision of '**Understanding People**' captures our core purpose perfectly. At Bridgelea we want to help our children, families, and communities to understand themselves and others more, whilst keeping their understanding of the statutory and wider curriculum.



Gold Rights Respecting School

Through the School Council the children decided they would like to focus on the following 10 Articles, whilst understanding no right is more important than another:

Article 12

You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 15

You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 24

You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 27

You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30

You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31

You have the right to play and rest.

Article 39

You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Equality and Accessibility

Our school aims to treat all pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind. Our school is committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

At Bridgelea we ensure the accessibility of the curriculum, physical environment and information for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

Bridgelea Primary School will:

- recognize the potential for vulnerable pupils, reduce barriers to their achievement and inclusion and develop a strong culture for success
- focus on enhancing the life chances of their most vulnerable children
- plan for and teach children with learning needs through a range of proven interventions
- use a range of inclusive teaching strategies
- take an informed view of the possible literacy and mathematic interventions that will be utilized
- ensure effectively support transition of vulnerable children and young people
- evaluate a range of outcomes of their current additional provision and the value for money it provides; make informed decisions about how best to target available funding in the future
- provide professional development for staff and governors
- keep parents and carers informed in line with the school policies and the requirements of the 0 – 25 Code of Practice

The Equality Act defines an individual as disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long term' adverse effect on his or her ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Bridgelea Primary School will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils.

1. Introduction and aims

At Bridgelea Primary School we recognise that mobile phones and similar devices, including smartphones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents/carers and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

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

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar devices.

This policy is designed to inform all staff of expectations regarding the use of mobile phones during working hours. It is intended to offer guidance to staff with regard to what constitutes appropriate (and inappropriate) use of mobile phones within the workplace or elsewhere whilst carrying out duties of employment, and additionally covers the potential consequences of misuse in contravention of the policy.

This policy is also of relevance with regard to employees who are required to have access to a mobile phone owned by the school in order to carry out the duties of their post, including those employees required to undertake 'on-call' duties.

2. Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the Department for Education's non-statutory [mobile phone guidance](#) and [behaviour guidance](#). Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

This policy also links with the school's Acceptable Use of ICT Policy and Online Safety Policy.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and agency staff) are responsible for consistently enforcing this policy.

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.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

Staff will address any questions or concerns from parents/carers and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

4. Use of mobile phones by staff

The DfE's non-statutory mobile phone guidance says that staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.

The use of mobile phones by employees for the purpose of making or receiving personal calls and/or texts during the working day is discouraged for the following reasons:

- it does not set a professional and positive example to pupils and parents.
- it is disruptive and interrupts lessons
- it is often discourteous to colleagues (eg during meetings)
- it is a misuse of the school's time and has potential to impact adversely on the pupil's learning.

4.1 Personal mobile phones and smartwatches

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to use their personal mobile phone or smartwatches, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time for personal reasons. For instance (this list is non-exhaustive):

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher or member of SLT will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements and give permission for this to occur.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number 0161 272 8716 or 0161 434 1548 as a point of emergency contact.

Staff who wear smartwatches should have these on silent and they must not be used during the school day.

Mobile phones should be switched off (or set to silent) whilst on school premises, other than during an official break or at lunchtime. Employees using personal mobile phones during their breaks should be respectful of their colleagues and mobile phones should not be used in front of pupils.

4.2 Data protection

Staff should not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information, including entering such data into generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT and Google Bard).

The school provides ICT devices, including Chromebooks, which staff are required to use for work-related purposes. Staff members must log in using their work credentials to complete IRIS and CPOMS records. It is imperative that personal mobile phones or laptops are not utilised for any work-related activities.

4.3 Safeguarding

Staff must not give their personal contact details to parents/carers or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents/carers or pupils.

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

4.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

The use of personal mobile phones within the educational environment should be restricted primarily to enabling two-factor authentication (2FA) for CPOMS. Such usage must occur during non-contact time with pupils. Should a staff member require access to their mobile phone for 2FA during contact time, prior permission from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is mandatory.

4.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by the school for work purposes.

Only authorised staff are permitted to use school phones, and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.

Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communications, or using the internet
- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with our staff code of conduct.

All staff must be aware of the importance of ensuring appropriate confidentiality and security when using mobile phones in public places.

Any loss or theft of a school mobile phone must be reported immediately to the school office as the school remains responsible for all call costs until the phone is officially reported lost or stolen.

4.6 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the school's staff disciplinary policy for more information.

5. Use of mobile phones by pupils

Pupils should not use their mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, in the time between lessons, at breaktimes and at lunchtimes.

All pupil mobile phones must be handed to staff on arrival where they will be held securely until the end of the school day in the property box in the admin office.

5.1 Use of smartwatches by pupils

Smartwatches are wristwatches with smart technology in them. They can be used to tell the time, send and receive text and voice messages, make calls and listen to music. Some smart watches have wellness and health-related features.

Smartwatches are not permitted by pupils in school.

Staff who wear smartwatches should have these on silent and they must not be used during the school day.

5.2 Removing mobile phones

The DfE guidance allows staff to search for a pupil's phone if there is a good reason to do so (such as having reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause harm to another person).

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

Please refer to the school's Relationships and Communication Policy for further information.

6. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents/carers
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 5 above, but must refer any sanctions to a member of staff, as they do not have the power to search or confiscate devices.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on their personal mobile during the school day.

7. Loss, theft or damage

The school does not accept responsibility for staff mobile phones. Staff should be ensuring that mobile phones are secured safely in lockers or with locked cupboards in classrooms. They should not be in staff pockets during contact time with children.

Pupils bringing mobile phones to school must ensure that the phones are appropriately labelled and are stored securely when not in use.

Pupils must secure their mobile phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school. Lost phones should be returned to the admin office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

8. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority and any other relevant organisations

9. Appendix 1: Mobile phone information slip for visitors

Use of mobile phones and similar devices in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to staff room or training room.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils or staff

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.

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