



EDUCATION SOUTH WEST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

MOBILE PHONE & DEVICE POLICY - PUPILS

We recognise that mobile phones and devices are part of everyday life for many children and young people, and they can be a valuable and important resource.

Children learn about the use of mobile technology during online safety lessons and as part of our PSHE curriculum. It is important that children develop sensible habits surrounding their use and also learn about inappropriate use and the impact this can have.

Mobile Phones

In Education South West Primary Schools, children **should not bring a mobile phone into school**, unless this is absolutely necessary – for example, for medical reasons or where a child travels to and from school unaccompanied in years five or six.

Initially, it is the responsibility of the parent/carers to decide:

- Whether the child is responsible enough to look after their phone and use it appropriately.
- Whether the child understands the safety risks involved.

The following rules apply where a child needs to bring their mobile phone to school:

- Parents/carers need to sign the permission form – available from the school office.
- All phones must be clearly named.
- Phones must not be used anywhere on the school premises. They must be switched off (not put on silent mode) before a pupil enters the school gates and not switched on until leaving the school gates at the end of the day.
- Phones must be handed in to the teacher first thing in the morning. Phones will be safely stored throughout the day and returned to the pupils at the end of the day.
- Under no circumstances should there be access to phones during the school day or phones be left in pupils' bags or pockets.
- All phones are brought to school at the owner's own risk - schools accept no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst on school premises.
- Pupils are not allowed to take mobile phones on school trips or residential visits. Where a child is attending an after-school activity, mobile phones must remain turned off and kept in the child's bag.
- Children are not permitted to bring in any other communication devices, such as smart watches, that could be used to record sound or images, or send or receive messages.

Medical Exceptions

For some children it may be necessary for them to need access to a mobile phone to monitor their medical care within school.

In this instance the school will meet with parents/carers and the child (if appropriate) to outline a specific agreement for this.

Sanctions

Where these rules are not followed, the following sanctions will be applied:

- On the first infringement, the mobile phone will be confiscated and kept secure in the school office. The pupil will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the

school day. A record will be made of the incident and parents/carers will be made aware.

- On the second infringement the mobile phone will be confiscated and kept secure in the school office. A record will be made of the incident, parents/carers will be notified and asked to collect the phone.
- If there is a third infringement, or in the event of a serious breach of the rules, school may withdraw the agreement to allow the pupil to bring a mobile telephone to school.

If the school has reason to believe that a mobile phone has been used inappropriately, the mobile phone may be searched in line with DFE guidance*. This search would be overseen by a safeguarding lead and would be witnessed by at least one other member of staff. Parents/carers would be informed of this search, why it was happening and the outcome.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. Our schools take such conduct extremely seriously, and this can lead to the involvement of 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

**Mobile Phones in Schools - guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day (February 2024)*

September 2024

To be reviewed in September 2025