



Mobile phones and other electrical devices Policy

AIMS

As a school we recognise the advantages and disadvantages associated with the use of mobile 'phones and other electronic devices. Our main aim is to promote a responsible and balanced approach to their use that is clearly understood by all.

We recognise that there are many positive factors relating to the use of mobile 'phones and other personal electronic devices by pupils. For example, mobile 'phones can increase pupil safety on the journey to and from school by facilitating closer contact with parents/carers.

Although we acknowledge the benefits of mobile 'phones we do not promote or encourage their use in school. Whilst most pupils use mobile 'phones responsibly, the school must consider their potential misuse and a number of potential problems, including:

- Distraction in lessons affecting teaching and learning;
- Inappropriate use in relation to potential safeguarding or data protection;
- Their use to carry out or support bullying;
- Possible loss through theft;
- Unwelcome peer pressure associated with the ownership of 'phones offering the latest technology;
- The risk of pupils involved in a discipline-related issue contacting parents/carers prior to the school having the opportunity to respond to, or fully investigate the matter.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT – Mobile 'Phones and other Personal Electronic Devices (Pupils)

- The school does not encourage pupils to bring mobile 'phones to school but allows pupils to do so entirely at their own risk.
- Mobile 'phones should not be used, at any time, on the school premises. (Pupils are not allowed to make calls, check or send text messages, or produce a video or photo recording of any kind anywhere on the school premises, unless part of an organised school activity.)
- If a child decides to bring a mobile 'phone to school, they must be handed in to their class teacher at morning registration and will be kept in the class safe. We try at all times to keep their belongings safe, but as you will appreciate, no system is 100% safe and children bring their 'phones to school at their own risk.
- If a pupil needs to make an urgent 'phone call during the school day this can be arranged through the school office.
- The school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile 'phones or any other health and safety issue relating to their use. (We are unable to invest valuable time or resources in investigating loss or damage to mobile 'phones.)
- We recommend that children bring cost effective mobile 'phones to school, so that if they do go missing, the replacement cost is reasonable for parents/carers; this also makes the device less of a target for theft, both in and on the way to and from school.



- Other personal electronic devices (including iPod and MP3 players, PSPs etc.) are not allowed in school.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT – Mobile ‘Phones and other Personal Electronic Devices (Staff)

Staff should not use their mobile ‘phones during lesson time, unless in an emergency situation. The school also has a ‘Social Networking Policy’ that all staff adhere to.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ADHERING TO SCHOOL POLICY

Pupils who use mobile ‘phones in school will have their ‘phones confiscated and left in the school office for collection at the end of the day. For repeated violations, parents/carers will be asked to collect their child’s ‘phone from the school office.

Any safeguarding or bullying issues associated with the use of mobile ‘phones (either in school or on the way to or from school) will be dealt with in line with the School Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Safeguarding Policies.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The school will review this policy at appropriate stages if it is judged that changes in technology or the inappropriate use of personal electronic devices by pupils merit additional modifications.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Anti-Bullying Policy
Behaviour Policy
Safeguarding Policy
Social Networking Policy

This policy appears on the school website.

Prepared by:	Headteacher	Responsibility of:	Headteacher
Agreement Date:	Spring 2017	Review Date:	Spring 2019
This Policy was prepared giving due regard to the disabilities and/or special education needs, age, race, religion or belief, sex/sexual orientation, gender/gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity of the children and staff at Witton Middle School and its community.			

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Approved by	Title	Changes
01.04.15	1	Full Governors	Mobile phones	School responsibilities updated
01.04.17	2	Full Governors	Mobile phones	School responsibilities updated