

ST JUDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PUPIL MOBILE PHONE POLICY



THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOL IS:

We live, love and learn together, joyfully in Jesus' name.

INTRODUCTION

We acknowledge that mobile phones are a feature of modern society and many children own one. However, increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for our school:

- Mobile phones can be valuable items and might render a child vulnerable to theft.
- Mobile phones [and their cost and level of sophistication- or otherwise] can make children objects of envy and this could have implications with regard to discipline and potential cyber bullying.
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of the classroom discipline.
- Use of phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

We believe that we have a duty to help all children to understand the social and moral issues associated with the use of new technologies. Problems with mobile phones fall into three categories - text, speech and images:

- Extreme examples include 'cyber bullying' [When a person or a group of people uses the Internet, email, online games or any other kind of digital technology to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else.]
- Camera and video phones combined with wireless technology enable children to make still images or videos of themselves or others and 'send' them to other phones or post them on the Internet. Sometimes these can be images that have been taken without the consent or even knowledge of the person involved. Occasionally, it can be with malicious intent.

- Children with 'wireless' or blue tooth phones can have unrestricted access to the Internet and are able to download material from other similar devices. Many Internet sites aim their content [text, music, images and videos] at children who can download or upload files and then share them by sending them to other mobile phones. On some sites, acceptable material, such as songs, cartoons or 'funny' videos, is presented alongside unacceptable material putting children at risk.

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought into school, especially given that many are now so slim that they are easily hidden. We also accept that many parents have concerns about children who make their own way to and from school. We have agreed to allow children in Year Five or Year Six to bring mobile phones with them to school under the conditions outlined below.

CONDITIONS OF USE

St Jude's Catholic Primary School discourages, and advises all parents to discourage children from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

Only children in Year Five or Year Six who come to school or go home independently are allowed to bring a phone to school and only after the parent and child has signed the school mobile phone agreement (Appendix 1) and it has been agreed by the Headteacher.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOBILE PHONES

The school accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever for theft, loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into the school and handed in to the school office or concealed. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the mobile phone is:

- properly insured
- clearly labelled with the child's name
- in a protective cover for additional protection

It is the responsibility of the child to ensure their mobile phone is:

- switched off before coming on to school grounds and handed in to the office in a protective cover on arrival
- handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day; this will then be safely stored in the school office in a clearly labelled box. It will be collected at the end of the day from the class teacher.
- switched off until they have left the school grounds

Where a child is found with a mobile in school, including the playground:

- the phone will be taken from the child and placed in the office
- parents will be contacted to collect the phone
- if the child is in Year Five or Year Six and they come to or go home on their own, any further breach of this policy may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the child to bring the mobile phone to school

If any child is found taking, or is believed to have taken photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of a child/children or an adult/adults, this will be regarded as a serious offence and the Headteacher will decide on appropriate disciplinary action. In certain circumstances, the child may be referred to other agencies. If images of other children or staff have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the child until the parent has been contacted and the images have been removed by the child or an appropriate adult under the supervision of the Headteacher or the Deputy in their absence.

Head Teacher SignatureDate

Adopted by the Governing Body: 12th February 2019

Signed: Chair of Governors

Review: March 2023



APPENDIX 1

St Jude's Catholic Primary School **Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones Agreement**

Parental Permission

I have read and understand the pupil mobile phone policy and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used to assist identify a phone should the need arise e.g. if the phone is being used inappropriately.

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school because they travel to and from school alone.

I understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in the policy.

I understand and agree that this permission may be revoked by the Headteacher at any time if there is a breach of school policy.

I understand that the school will accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for theft, loss or damage to the mobile phone.

Parent name (print) _____

Parent signature _____

Child's name (print) _____

Mobile phone number _____

Child's signature _____

Date _____

Permission is given for your child to bring a mobile phone to school.

Head Teacher signature _____ Date _____

A copy of this form will be returned to the parent once permission is given and must be surrendered to the school if permission is revoked due to misuse of the phone.