



FEDERATION OF ST. NICHOLAS C OF E MIDDLE SCHOOL, PINVIN, AND PINVIN C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy (St Nicholas Middle School)

Table with 2 columns and 3 rows: Date approved at FGB (February 2021), Frequency (2 years), Date of next review (February 2023)

Agreed by (Headteacher)

..... (Chair of Governors)

Date Agreed

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Parents should discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones and smart watches to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

However, we recognise that in Years Five, Six and Seven mobile phones may have a part to play in securing pupils' personal safety before and after school and on journeys to and from school, especially for those children who use school transport. Our expectation is that in all other year groups pupils will be collected by an adult or responsible person. If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they will be allowed to use a school phone. If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

Under no circumstances will pupils be allowed to take mobile phones or smart watches on school excursions.

PROCEDURES

Parents of Year Five, Six and Seven pupils will need to complete the permission form (Appendix 1) and hand this to the Year 5, 6 or 7 Head of Year. With consideration to this, it is to be made clear to parents that where they have been given permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school, they do so entirely at their own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst the device is on school premises.

Pupils

Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone or smart watch to school, the phone or watch must remain switched off during the school day and may not be used for any purpose on school premises or during off-site school activities (such as swimming or sports).

The phone or watch should be given to a member of the year group teaching team upon arrival at school and can be collected at the end of the school day. Phones and watches will be kept in a secure container under the supervision of the Head of Year. Under no circumstances should there be access to phones or smart watches during the school day or be left in pupils' bags, coats or folders.

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone or smart watch

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone or smart watch of either pupils or teachers, or of the school building (external or internal) this will be regarded as a serious offence and a member of the Senior Leadership Team should be involved from the outset. If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone or smart watch will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been deleted.

The parent/guardian will be contacted by a member of the SLT. If this is not possible, then a letter will be sent notifying them of the seriousness of this action.

In the rare circumstance that there is evidence of harassment and/or bullying, the phone or smart watch should be confiscated, retained in a secure place by an appropriate member of staff, taking care not to delete any images or recordings which could be used as evidence.

Staff and Governors

Staff should have phones off or on silent when in the vicinity of pupils. Staff are not permitted to use mobile phones during teaching time, in assemblies, on playground duty or while supervising children – with the exception of class trips, sporting events and small group out of school visits, where their use is permitted to facilitate the health and safety of the members of the party. If photographs of pupils are required for display or curriculum evidence these may only be taken on a designated school camera / ipad, this would also apply to those attending sports events, etc.

Staff wishing to use their mobile telephones or check for messages during the school day should do so during a break period and take into consideration the location of where they are making the call – for example if a class is outside at break time and the classroom empty, this would be acceptable. In cases of emergency, staff should seek permission from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The above applies to all aspects of the school, including out of hours provision (e.g. After School Club and clubs run by staff and outside providers).

Sanctions

Pupils who infringe the agreement set out in this policy may not be allowed to bring their mobile phone or smart watch into school.

On the first infringement, the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. The student will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day and a record will be made of the incident. A letter will also be sent to the parent/carer to inform them of the incident.

On the second infringement, the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. Parents will be notified and the pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone without a parent/carer's consent. If a parent/carer is unable to attend the school they are permitted to phone and give verbal consent for their

child to collect the phone and must speak to a member of the leadership team. The incident will be recorded.

On the third infringement, the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. Parents will be notified and the pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone without a parent/carer present. After the third infringement, the school will withdraw the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone or smart watch to school.

Parents and Visitors

Parents and visitors will be asked to turn phones off when volunteering in classrooms and attending assemblies so that there is no disruption to the school's programs. Notwithstanding this, we accept that there may be some parents/guardians who wish to use their mobile phone camera facility to take photographs of their own child while performing in special assemblies or events. This will be kept under review by the Governors.

Conclusion

The school will treat breaches of this policy as they would treat any other breach of school rules or staff discipline policy.

Please note: This agreement also applies to SMART Watches which have the facility to send/receive phone calls and messages and take photographs.

APPENDIX A

Mobile Phone / Smart Watch Agreement:

Name: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Reason for phone being in school: _____

1/We hereby give permission for my son/daughter to bring the above mentioned phone into school.

1/We acknowledge that if he/she does not hand it in and/or uses the phone inappropriately for calls, photographs, internet etc. the school will confiscate the said phone accordingly.

The phone will be returned only to the parent/carer the following school day.

Name(s): _____

(parent/carer)

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____