

Governor Lead:	Stephen Wilkinson
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	Vicki Chiverton
Status & Review Cycle:	Statutory Annual
Next Review Date:	September 2021

St Jude's C of E Junior School

Learning and Achieving Together with God



PUPIL MOBILE PHONE* POLICY

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones* in school

* This includes other electronic devices such as tablets, computers and ipods or other portable image capturing device.

Use of mobile phones, particularly with increasingly sophisticated equipment and camera phones, presents a number of problems, including:

- Mobile phones can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft.
- Mobile phones and their cost and level of sophistication or otherwise, can make pupils objects of envy or disparagement and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying.
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobiles phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline and distract the pupils' learning.
- 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 advise all parents to discourage their children from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen. However, the Governors accept that it is not regarded as realistic to have a policy which completely prohibits pupils from bringing mobile phones to school. Therefore our policy prohibits the unauthorised use by pupils of mobile phones while on school premises, grounds or off site activities e.g. educational visits. The school will treat breaches of this policy as they would treat any other breach of school rules and discipline accordingly.

If a parent decides it is essential for their child to bring a phone into school for legitimate reasons (e.g. regularly walking home alone) a mobile phone may be brought to school. We would appreciate parents informing the school of this decision. This could be written in your child's school planner or by telephone to the school office.

The phone must be placed securely in your child's school bag during the school day and **may not** be used for any purpose on school premises (including PTA events) or during offsite school activities (such as sports activities).

The school will accept no liability or responsibility for any mobile phones brought on to the school premises at any time.

If a child is seen to have a mobile phone on the school premises or at off-site school activities, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and returned, preferably to the child's parent, at the end of the day.

Where the camera on the phone or other device is used by a child to take photographs or videos of another child or member of staff, which is then published on the internet (especially a Social Networking site), parents will be contacted immediately and advice sought from the Local Authority. Legal action may be taken.

If images of other pupils or staff have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a teacher. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be immediately informed in the case of indecent images being seen. The child's parents will be contacted and asked to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

Where a child has sent messages using a mobile phone which has caused upset to others, he/she will be dealt with in line with the Anti Bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy. This may include messages which have been sent outside of school hours.