

Pupil Access to Mobile Devices*

To be read in conjunction with:

Statutory Right to Search Document and Screen available on the school website or on request.

1. Purpose

Ashgate Primary School recognises that in recent years the number of children who have mobile devices has increased exponentially, as such, schools are having to manage and navigate a new social dynamic.

We recognise the wide benefits of children having access to mobile devices, including parental tracking of movement, security when walking to and from home and sharing of positive peer-on-peer communication. The school also accepts that as children have increased access to such devices, parents and schools need to educate, monitor and manage their use. Children may not have the skills to recognise potential risks, including mental health, security and viewing/sharing of inappropriate materials.

Whilst the school has secured, filtered and monitored access to the internet, private mobile devices are not protected in the same manner. With this in mind, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that children are educated to protect themselves and ensure that access to mobile devices does not impact negatively on school life and general well-being.

2. Access to mobile devices on school premises:

2.1 Children are not permitted to have access to mobile devices on the school site or when on trips and activities out of school.

2.2 Parents may allow their child to come to and from school with a mobile device if it is felt necessary for the safety of their child walking independently to and from school, however, once on site the device must be turned off and handed in.

- When arriving in class the devices must be handed to the class teacher and not accessed until the end of the school day when they will be returned.
- Any devices returned are not to be turned on until off the premises.

2.3. The school does not accept responsibility for any loss, damage or theft of items that are handed to a staff member.

3. Non-compliance

3.1. Failure to turn off, or hand in a mobile device as stipulated is a breach of this policy. Likewise, should a pupil access a mobile device during the school day, this will be viewed as a sanctionable offence.

3.2 Sanctions may, depending on circumstance, include:

- A verbal or written warning and the parent informed of a first offence.
- Suspension from school for a given period for any malicious or intentional breach or repeat offences.
- A complete ban on individual pupils bringing a mobile device to school.

3.3. The school is not responsible for access or monitoring of said devices off the school site. Any act viewed as unlawful or malicious should be reported to the police who have jurisdiction to act.

4. The right of the headteacher or authorised staff to search for items deemed as prohibited:

Mobile devices are designated as a prohibited item and the headteacher or designated staff have the right to search for items of this nature*. The Right of Statutory Search information/guidance is available as a separate document on the school website or on request.

Reviewed January 2024. To be reviewed every 3 years

***Definitions:**

- Mobile devices refer to any item such as (but not exclusively), a mobile phone, watch, tablet, or similar that can communicate externally, capture images (video or picture) or access the internet.

- **List of prohibited items:**

Knives and weapons*, alcohol, cigarettes or vaping paraphernalia, illegal drugs, stolen items, mobile communication or image-capturing devices, pornographic items, items that may be seen as racist in nature or with the capacity to incite hatred.

- Or

*Any item that may be used to commit an offence or cause injury or listed as prohibited in other school policies/rules.