



Sutton Oak C.E Primary School

Goodban Street, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3QD

Mobile Phone Policy

September 2024



Believe, Achieve and Grow Together

Sutton Oak C.E Primary School

Purpose

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, pupils, and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at schools. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide can continue to be enjoyed by our students. Mobile phones are considered banned items unless used in accordance with this policy and as such can be searched for and confiscated.

- Sutton Oak C.E. Primary School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, pupils and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.
- Pupils, their parents or guardians must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before pupils are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- Use of mobile 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 the newer phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.
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Rationale

Sutton Oak C.E. Primary School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children walking to school alone or travelling alone on public transport. It is recognised that providing a child with a mobile phone doesn't make them safe but rather gives parents and pupils reassurance that they can contact each other if they need to speak urgently.

Responsibility

- Mobile phones should not be brought to school. School advises all parents to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.
- Permission to have a mobile phone at school while the child is under the school's supervision is dependent on Head Teacher & parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy. The school or parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.

Sutton Oak C.E Primary School

Phones should only be brought into school if a child walks home on their own.

- If brought into school, a phone must be handed in to the school office (via the main entrance). During school hours, the phone must remain switched off and kept in the school office. The phone may be collected from the office after the child has been dismissed from class (via the main entrance) and the child should then immediately leave the school premises. Phones may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities), unless agreed by the head teacher or other senior teacher i.e. only for emergency use.
- Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.
- Where a child is found, by a member of staff, to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent or guardian.
- The teaching staff reserve the right to view the content of any child's mobile phone at any time in respect to issues regarding the safeguarding of children.
- This policy is linked into the school's behaviour policy. The school will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school rules and discipline accordingly.

Acceptable Uses

- Mobile phones should be switched off and kept by the school office when on school premises.
- Pupils should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the pupil's number from unwanted messages and calls.
- Pupils are advised not to use their mobile phones as they walk to school, unless there is an emergency, so that they are paying full attention to crossing roads and to avoid any potential theft.

Unacceptable Uses

- Unless express permission is granted by the head teacher, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school time
- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.
- Using mobile phones to photograph or film any child is unacceptable.
- Use of social media sites to harass or bully pupils is unacceptable.

Theft or damage

- Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.
- Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school should NEVER leave it in their coat/bag when they arrive. Mobile phones will be kept by the school office.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones whilst on the school premises.
- The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

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Acceptable Use of Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Mr Williams

RE: Request for mobile phone in school

I wish to seek permission for Child's name in class
to bring a mobile phone to school.

The reason for this request is

- I have read the school's acceptable use of mobile phone policy
- I understand that the phone will be kept in the school office during the day and my child is responsible for taking it to/collecting it from the school office
- I understand that the school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, damaged or stolen phones, whilst on the school premises.

Signed Parent/Guardian Date

Authorised by Head teacher

Signed..... Date.....