

Wardley CE Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy



Name of Reviewer	Helen Kelly
Date of Approval of Governing Body	October 2026
Signature of Chair	<i>Alan Johns</i>
Signature of Head	<i>Helen Kelly</i>
Date Due for Review	October 2027

EQUALITY STATEMENT

As a school we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

We review all policies and procedures we operate to ensure there are no negative equality impacts based on the following protected characteristics: age, disability, ethnicity & race, gender (sex), gender identity & reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, sexual orientation, religion & belief and non-belief as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. If you feel, on reading this policy that there may be a negative equality impact, please tell us about this. Please also let us know if you need to access this policy in a different format. You can do this by contacting the school office.

Our School Vision

We are a Church of England school that values and recognises the uniqueness of each individual child and acknowledges their fundamental right to be educated to their full potential in a safe, secure and caring environment. Our ethos is built on Christian foundations and drives our belief that we can do all things.

Wardley CE Primary School is committed to continual improvement to ensure that what we do today is even better tomorrow. We provide a happy, secure and supportive learning environment where the children develop independence and work hard to make the most of their talents, and that 'We can do all things' within a deep and rich curriculum.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Phillippians 4:13

Practical ways in which we attempt to carry out our school vision

Through the Christian value of respect:

- Having strong ethics to underpin our decision making and actions.
- Creating an environment which promotes the Christian ethos of trust, respect and honesty to enable people to flourish.
- Promoting a sense of justice.
- Creating a strong moral purpose which underpins everything we do

Through the Christian value of friendship:

- Having an inclusive ethos to create a school in which everyone is welcome and everyone is equal.
- In celebrating diversity we value the strengths of all and embrace differences.
- Engaging stakeholders within and beyond the school.

Through the Christian value of trust:

- Having a strong sense of teamwork amongst all members of the school community.
- No matter how small, we value every contribution and support each other to reach our goals.
- In respecting each other, we strive to not let each other down.
- In feeling valued and empowered people have a desire to go the extra mile.

Through the Christian value of courage

- Recognising, supporting and developing everyone's potential.
- Nurturing skills and promoting opportunities.
- Creating an environment for people to think positively and take risks.

Through the Christian value of perseverance:

- Through continual enhancement we are constantly striving to achieve high standards, we never stand still.
- All improvements are underpinned with high aspirations.
- When problems arise, we must hold on to our vision and find solutions.

-We inspire and innovate and we support others to do the same.

General use of mobile phones

- Mobile phones may not be used during lessons or formal school time.
- Mobile phones and personally-owned mobile devices brought into school are the responsibility of the device owner. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of personally-owned mobile phones or mobile devices.
- Mobile phones will not be used during lessons or formal school time unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity with explicit consent from a member of staff and sanctioned by a senior member of the school.
- No images or videos should be taken on mobile phones or personally-owned mobile devices.

Pupils' use of personal devices

- Wardley CE Primary School operates as a mobile phone-free school. Children should not bring mobile phones, smart watches or other smart communication devices onto the school site unless a specific exemption has been authorised by the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- For the purposes of this policy, mobile phones include smartphones, smart watches, devices capable of sending or receiving messages, internet-enabled communication devices and devices capable of recording images, audio or video.
- Exceptions will only be granted where there is a safeguarding, medical, disability or other exceptional need. Y5 and Y6 children with permission to walk home from school may seek permission to bring a mobile phone into school. Any approved device would be switched off, handed in immediately to a member of school staff and retained securely, until the end of the day.
- If a pupil repeatedly breaches the school policy then the phone or device will be confiscated and will be held in a secure place in the school office. Mobile phones and devices will be released to parents or carers in accordance with school policy.
- If a pupil needs to contact his or her parents or carers, they will be allowed to use a school phone. Parents are advised not to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but to contact the school office.
- Pupils should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to trusted friends and family members. Pupils will be instructed in safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and personal devices and will be made aware of boundaries and consequences and encouraged to use PIN's and other security as necessary.

- Pupils will be provided with school mobile devices (e.g. Chrome Books) to use in specific learning activities under the supervision of a member of staff. Such mobile devices will be set up so that only those features required for the activity will be enabled as necessary.

Staff use of personal devices

- Staff must not use personal devices for photographing pupils, communicating with pupils, storing pupil information or accessing school systems unless specifically authorised through school procedures.
- Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile phones or devices for contacting pupils, young people or those connected with the family of the student.
- Staff will be issued with a school phone where contact with pupils, parents or carers is required, for example a mobile on school trips or staff-based landline in departments or school offices. Where staff members are required to use a mobile phone for school duties, for instance in case of emergency during off-site activities, or for contacting parents, they should use their own devices and hide (by inputting 141) their own mobile numbers for confidentiality purposes.
- Mobile phones and personally-owned devices will be switched off or switched to 'silent' mode and not used during teaching periods unless in emergency circumstances.
- Staff should use mobile phones in designated areas such as the staff room or in a private room away from children; not in open areas and within view of children regardless of the time of day.
- Staff should not use personal devices such as mobile phones or cameras to take photos or videos of pupils and will only use school provided equipment for this purpose.
- If a member of staff breaches the school policy then disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate.
- Staff use of mobile phones during the school day will be limited to the morning break, lunch break and before/after school.
- Staff should ensure that their phones are protected with PIN/access codes in case of loss or theft.
- Staff should not send and receive texts in classrooms or use camera phones at any time during the school day.
- Staff should never contact pupils from their personal mobile phone, or give their mobile phone number to pupils. If a member of staff needs to make telephone contact with a parent, a school telephone should be used.
- Staff should never store parents' or pupils' telephone or contact details on their mobile phone, as this allows the possibility of inappropriate contact.
- Staff should never send, or accept from anyone, texts or images that could be viewed as inappropriate.

- If a member of staff suspects a message, text or similar may contain inappropriate content it should not be opened but a senior member of staff, preferably the e-safety coordinator or DSL should be contacted.

Pupil's Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose

Wardley CE Primary School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, pupils, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours & events.

Pupils, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given 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 both on the school campus and off-site.

Rationale

The school recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life but that such technologies need to be used appropriately and safely.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of pupils who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is incumbent upon parents to understand the capabilities of the phone and the potential misuse of those capabilities.

Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school it is assumed household insurance will provide the required cover in the event of loss or damage. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs incurred due to its use.

Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains *the first and appropriate point of contact*. and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any relevant way. Passing messages through school reception also reduces the likelihood of disrupting lessons inadvertently.

Acceptable Uses

All children's mobile phones and personally-owned devices must be switched off and handed in to a member of staff if they are brought into school. They must not be used on the school site without the permission of a member of staff.

Parents/carers are requested that in cases of emergency they contact the school first. This ensures that staff are aware of any potential issue and may make the necessary arrangements.

Mobile phones should not be used in any manner or in any location that could cause disruption to the normal routine of the school.

Pupils should protect their phone numbers by giving them only to close friends and family. This will help protect the pupil's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against insulting, threatening or unpleasant communications. If asked to do so, pupils will show the content requested or hand their phone to a teacher or other designated adult such as the police.

Theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their full name.

Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must give it to a member of staff so it can be sent to the school office when they arrive.

When a mobile phone is found on the school premises and the owner cannot be located, it should be handed into the front office reception.

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords and/or pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen).

Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords may not be shared.

Lost and stolen mobile phones in the U.K. can be blocked across all networks making them virtually worthless to the thief. Call your network provider as soon as possible after your phone has been lost or stolen. This can be a temporary measure in case it is recovered.

Inappropriate conduct

Using mobile phones to bully or threaten pupils or staff is unacceptable. Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. In some cases it could constitute criminal behaviour. Using technology to humiliate, embarrass or cause offence will not be tolerated; regardless of whether 'consent' was given.

It is forbidden for pupils to use their own or other pupils' mobile phones to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate or humiliate others. This also includes using mobile phones to photograph or film any pupil or member of staff without their consent. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

Any pupil who uses vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary action.

Pupils may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information using SMS messaging, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Pupils using mobile phones to bully other pupils will face disciplinary action. *[It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.]*

Pupils must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading, racist or pornographic images. The transmission of such images is a criminal offence. Similarly, nude, semi-nude or sexually explicit image sharing is also a criminal offence.

Authorised staff may confiscate mobile phones where this policy is breached. Searches will be conducted in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance, and safeguarding procedures.

Sanctions

Pupils who infringe the rules set out in this document could face having their phones confiscated by teachers.

Where safeguarding concerns arise, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the matter and determine whether referral to children's social care, the police or other agencies is required in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Note: The school may wish to add its own sanctions to fit with the school's disciplinary procedures.