Holymead Primary School
Mobile Phone Policy, including all portable internet devices

1. 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 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.

1.1 Holymead Primary School has established the following Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, pupils and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

1.2 Pupils, their parents or guardians must read and understand the Mobile Phone Policy before pupils are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.

1.3 The Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

1.4 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 phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

2. Rationale
Holymead 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.

3. Responsibility
3.0 Mobile phones should not be brought to school. School advises all parents to discourage, pupils from bringing mobile phones to schools on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

3.1 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.

3.2 During school hours and on the school premises, the phone must remain switched off and kept in the school office. It may not be used for any purpose on the school premises, including in the playgrounds and grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities), unless agreed by the head teacher or other teachers i.e. only for emergency use.

3.3 Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

3.4 Where a child is found, by a member of staff, to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone or using the phone in an unacceptable way, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent or guardian.

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

4. Acceptable Uses

4.0 Mobile phones must be switched off and kept by the school office when on school premises. Devices may not be switched on whilst on the playground or school grounds eg before or after school.

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

5. Unacceptable Uses

5.0 Unless express permission is granted by the head teacher or other teacher, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school time or on the school premises including the grounds

5.1 Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.

5.2 Using mobile phones to photograph or film any child is unacceptable

5.3 Use of social media sites to harass or bully pupils is unacceptable

6. Theft or damage

6.0 Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.

6.1 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.

6.2 The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones whilst on the school premises.

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

Date: April 2019 Review: April 2021

Rights Respecting Schools Article 13:

Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

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Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Ms Slatcher

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 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…….

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