

# Holymead Primary School

## Mobile Phone, including all portable internet devices, Policy

### 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 and all portable internet devices are used responsibly at schools. Throughout this policy the term mobile phone refers to any portable internet device including but not limited to smart watches. This Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones and other devices can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide can continue to be enjoyed by our students. **Mobile phones and all portable internet devices 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 and other devices 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, including all portable internet devices Policy before pupils are given permission to bring mobile phones and devices to school.

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

1.4 Use of mobile phones and other devices presents a number of problems, including:

- They can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft;
- They (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 and devices for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline and distract the pupils learning.
- Use of phones and devices 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 help 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 and devices should not be brought to school. School advises all parents to discourage, pupils from bringing mobile phones and devices to schools on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

3.1 Permission to have a mobile phone or device 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/device 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 or device to school.

3.4 Where a child is found, by a member of staff, to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone or device or using them in an unacceptable way, it 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 or device 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 and devices 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 or devices 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/devices 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/devices to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.

5.2 Mobile phones/devices should not be used to photograph or film any child

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

#### **6. Theft or damage**

6.0 Pupils should mark their device clearly with their names.

6.1 Pupils who bring a mobile phone/device to school should NEVER leave it in their coat/bag when they arrive. They 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 including when stored in school.

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

Date: Jan 2022    Review: Jan 2024

#### **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.*



## Mobile Phone, including all portable internet devices, Policy

Dear Head Teacher

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

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☐ I have read the school's mobile phone, including all portable internet devices, policy

☐ I understand that the phone/device 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 including when stored by the school.

Signed ..... Parent/Carer Date .....

Authorised by Head teacher

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

### 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.

