

Springfield Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy



Last updated: September 2025

Statement of intent

At Springfield Primary School we are committed to ensuring the safety of children in our care. We recognise that mobile phones in the school have a role to play for the purpose of communication, but we are aware that casual or inappropriate use of mobile phones on site could pose a risk to children and adults.

The enhanced functions of many mobile phones are of most concern and are most susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. Mobile phones can cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and can be intrusive when used in the company of others.

When mobile phones are misused, it can impact on an individual's dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not exclusive to children and young people; hence there is a duty to protect the needs and vulnerabilities of everyone.

It can be difficult to detect when such devices are present or being used, particularly in relation to enhanced functions, such as cameras. The use of all mobile phones is, therefore, limited, regardless of their capabilities.

The aim is to avoid distraction and disruption of the working day, and to minimise the opportunities for any individual to make any covert images or misuse functions in any other way.

This policy applies to all staff, children, volunteers and visitors.

Please note that for the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' also covers any electronic device with the capacity to be used as a form of communication, either through the device itself or any applications stored on the device.

Staff Personal Mobile Phones

- Staff must not carry personal mobile phones while working. This protects staff from being distracted from their work and from allegations of inappropriate use. Phones must be safely stored away out of sight. The only exception to this is the Headteacher and the site supervisors (or anyone who is acting on behalf of them such as the DHT) who may require to use their phones for work purposes.
- If staff have a break time during their working hours, they may use their mobile phones during these times in the staff room or an office where children are not present.
- In an emergency, staff needing to make a personal call during a lesson or whilst on duty should first obtain agreement from their line manager, ensure that adequate cover has been put in place and make the call in an area not used by children.
- Staff must give the school telephone number to their next of kin or children's school in case it is necessary for the staff member to be contacted, in an emergency, during working hours.
- A personal mobile phone may be taken on school trips in accordance with guidance – see 'The Use of Mobile Phones on Trips' section below.
- Camera or video functions on personal mobile phones must not be used by staff to take images of children under any circumstances.
- Staff are not required to make work calls on their own phones, either mobile or landline, however, in exceptional circumstances, if this should be necessary then they are advised to use the prefix 141 before dialling the recipient's number to ensure their own number is protected.
- Staff must never store parents', carers' or children's telephone numbers on their mobile phones and staff must never give their private mobile number to parents, carers or children.
- Failure by staff to comply with the mobile phone policy guidelines could result in disciplinary action.

Children (Year 5 and 6 only)

- Children who walk to and from school without an accompanying adult may carry a mobile phone for safety. In these cases, children may bring a mobile phone on to the school site but must deposit it in their class mobile phone box as soon as they enter the classroom. This will be given back to them as they clear via their class exit. The children must not use their phone once on the school site including the playground before and after school. If mobile phones are visible on site, they will be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the day.
- Parents and carers need to be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to pupils having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.
- We would also like to alert parents and carers to the risks that using a mobile phone has while walking to and from school. Children who are concentrating on using their phone can have reduced general safety awareness which may result in road accidents and/or injury if a child is not paying attention to their surroundings.
- Mobile phones deposited in the classroom by children will be kept safely in a locked cupboard. Whilst the school will take every reasonable care, it accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure mobile phones are properly insured. It is recommended that pupil's phones are security marked, and password protected. When year 5 and 6 pupils stay at a club after school – their phones will be given to the member of SLT or wrap around staff on duty that evening.
- Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones into any other areas of the school.
- Any mobile phones discovered to have been brought into the school and not handed in to the class teacher will be confiscated immediately. Parents or carers will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the school office.
- Children are not allowed to carry mobile phones on any school trips.
- If a member of the staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone brought into school by a pupil has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be required to hand over the phone immediately to a member of staff and parents or carers will be asked to collect it from a member of the senior leadership team. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the school's safeguarding lead or to the head teacher for further investigation and the parent or carer asked to collect it from them.

If you wish for your child to bring their phone to school, they and you must complete the declaration below and return to school. Anyone who does not sign the declaration will not be allowed to have their phone inside the school building.

Pupil declaration form

Please read each statement and provide a tick to show you agree to the terms, then provide your name below.

- I will use my device appropriately.
- I will follow this agreement at all times.
- I understand that if I do not follow this agreement my device will be taken off me and there may be other disciplinary actions.

Pupil name (please print): _____

Date: _____

Parent name (please print): _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Visitors, Parents and Carers

- Notices are displayed in the school advising visitors, parents and carers that mobile phones are not to be used.
- We ask all parents not to use mobile phones in the school from 9am until 3.20pm. This includes all uses including, texting and photographing unless you have been given permission following an assembly or performance. In these instances, the phone may be used for photographing only – no videos or live facetime. These images are for personal use and must not be uploaded for any internet use including Facebook or any other social networking sites or used in any form of publication unless they are solely of their own child with no other children in the background of the shot. Parents can however use their phones outside the school building but must not take images of children that are not their own.
- Visitors and supply staff are not allowed to use mobile phones on the school site and phones must be kept in their bags. Mobile phones can be used in the staff room.
- If a visitor, parent or carer is seen using their mobile phone, they will be asked politely to turn it off/desist from using it/remove it from children's view.

The Use of Mobile Phones on School Trips

Carrying mobile phones on trips can help to ensure safety for all members of the school party. However, it is important that the following guidance is adhered to in order to keep children safe and protect staff and volunteers from accusations of inappropriate use:

- The party leader should carry the office mobile phone for use in contacting other staff members or volunteers on the trip, contacting the school or contacting the emergency services. If the office mobile phone is unavailable (e.g. if another trip is on the same day) then the party leader should follow the advice below for staff use of personal mobile phones.
- Members of staff and volunteers may carry their own, personal mobile phones within the following guidelines:
 - Personal phones should only be used to contact staff members or volunteers on the trip, the campus or emergency services. If possible, these calls should be made away from children.
 - Personal phones should not be used for any purpose other than school business for the duration of a trip. This means that personal calls or texts should not be made or accepted. On residential trips this will apply while the member of staff or volunteer is on duty. Staff and volunteers should ensure that next of kin are provided with the school number so that in an emergency the school is contacted and will make contact with the relevant person through the party leader.
 - If it becomes necessary for a member of staff or volunteer to make a personal call or text, then the party leader or another member of staff should be informed and take responsibility for the pupils in the group while the call or text is made away from sight and sound of any pupils.
 - Personal mobile phones must not be used under any circumstances to take photographs or videos of pupils. Volunteers are acting role models for the duration of the trip and therefore must not take photos or videos of any pupils, including their own child, using a mobile phone or any other mobile device, e.g. camera or tablet, without the express permission of the party leader. Volunteers may be asked to take photographs of their group using a school or centre device – this must be passed back to the party leader at the end of the trip.
 - The party leader may ask volunteers to provide them with their mobile phone number for the duration of the trip so that they can be contacted in case of emergency. The party leader undertakes to ensure that these numbers are not held on any mobile device or in any written form after the end of the trip.
 - It is advised that if the party leader is using his or her own mobile phone, then if they need to contact anyone during the trip they do so by pre-dialling 141 (some mobile providers use a different prefix – staff are advised to check this with their provider) before the number so that their own number remains protected.

A school mobile phone is provided for staff to use on trips for contacting parents and school or taking photographs for school use.

Appendix 1 provides guidance for volunteers on trips.

Appendix 1

Use of mobile phones - guidance for volunteers on school trips

Thank you for volunteering to help on our trip. During the trip we ask that you follow the guidelines below in accordance with the school's mobile phone policy:

- Personal phones should only be used to contact staff members or volunteers on the trip, the campus or emergency services. If possible, these calls should be made away from pupils.
- Personal phones must not be used for any purpose other than school business for the duration of a day trip. On residential trips this will apply while the member of staff or volunteer is on duty. This means that personal calls or texts must not be made or accepted. Staff and volunteers should ensure that next of kin are provided with the campus number so that in an emergency the school is contacted and will make contact with the relevant person through the party leader.
- If it becomes necessary for a member of staff or volunteer to make a personal call, then the party leader or another member of staff should be informed and take responsibility for the pupils in the group while the call or text is made away from sight and sound of any pupils.
- Personal mobile phones must not be used under any circumstance to take photographs or videos of pupils. Volunteers are asked to set an example for the duration of the trip and therefore must not take photos or videos of any pupils, including their own child, using a mobile phone or any other mobile device, e.g. cameras or ipads, without the express permission of the party leader. Volunteers may be asked to take photographs of their group using a school or centre device – this must be passed back to the party leader at the end of the trip.
- The party leader may ask volunteers to provide them with their mobile phone number for the duration of the trip so that they can be contacted in case of emergency. The party leader undertakes to ensure that these numbers or not held on any mobile device or in any written form after the end of the trip.
- It is advised that if the party leader is using her or his own mobile phone, then if they need to contact anyone during the trip they do so by pre-dialling 141 (some mobile providers use a different prefix – volunteers are advised to check this with their provider) before the number so that their own number remains protected.
- If you have any questions regarding these guidelines please speak to the party leader.
- Thank you for your support and co-operation to ensure the safety of all the pupils.