



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Policy on Use of Mobile Phones and other electronic devices in school by children.

The phrase 'other electronic devices' to include devices such as MP3 players, games consoles or tablets

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School recognises that parents may wish their Year 5 and 6 children to have mobile phones for use in cases of emergency. However, mobiles and other devices with cameras or internet access can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. The Governing Body has, therefore, adopted the following policy which will be rigorously enforced.

Mobile phones and other electronic devices should not be used on school premises and students should keep them switched off and stored in their school bag.

Pupils must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.

Students remain responsible for their own property. The School cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage to any electronic devices brought into school.

Students needing to contact family members in an emergency can do so in the School Office. In very unusual circumstances, such as an emergency, students should seek staff permission to use their own phone.

Students who use a mobile on school premises without permission, or during school time, for example while on a school trip, will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it subsequently from the school office.

Examples of unsuitable use of a mobile phone or other electronic device include:

- taking photographs
- making recordings
- placing photographs or recordings on the internet (e.g. on social networking sites) without the permission of those in the photograph
- any activity connected with cyber-bullying (sending texts, Whatsapp etc...)
- gaining access to inappropriate internet sites.

If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff.

We reserve the right to search files on personal electronic devices in cases where there is reasonable suspicion of misuse. The search will be conducted in a proper manner in the presence of another member of staff. Parents will be informed when such a search has taken place and a record of the incident is kept, including the reasons for the search and its outcome. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances. Parents and students should be aware that such incidents are likely to be treated seriously by the courts.

Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in disciplinary action (in line with school policy) to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students 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.



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Please complete the agreement and email to office@st-josephs.havering.sch.uk.

I (name of parent)_____ take full parental responsibility for my child's use of their mobile phone or other electronic device. I agree to ensure that my child follows the school's policy on use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in school.

Mobile phones brought into school will be turned off and kept in their school bag. They will **not use their mobile phone whilst in school.**

I will **use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** I understand that these parental controls are not the answer to my child's online safety, but they are a good start and will be supported by the following systems.

I will set boundaries in the online world just as I do in the real world. (Think about what your child might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online).

I will talk to my child about what they're up to online. (Try to be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems).

If you have difficulties setting parental controls please contact your service provider or Mrs Dennis in school.

If my child fails to comply with the school's policy then I agree that they will not be allowed to bring their phone into school.

Signed by parent: _____ Date: _____

Parents, please discuss the impact of not complying with the school policy and also the points below.

I (name of child) _____ will comply with the school's policy on use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in school.

I will not cyber bully.

I will not send texts or messages to children at St Joseph's Catholic Junior School that are nasty, mean or could be upsetting.

I will not send compromising photos of myself to other children at St Joseph's Catholic Junior School.

Signed by child : _____ Date: _____

Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in normal disciplinary action to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.