



Mobile Phone Policy 2023-2025

Last reviewed: April 2023

Next review due: April 2025

Colburn Community Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction

Our school is well aware that many primary-age children own a mobile phone and we understand the widespread growth in modern electronic communication. However, we are an institution that is primarily focused on learning, and the safety and well-being of our pupils is paramount. Consequently, we do not allow children to use mobile phones while they are at school and (unless authorised by the Headteacher) we do not allow children to bring mobile phones into school.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy is to explain:

- how the school will manage the issue of mobile phones in school;
- the rationale for this approach;
- what parents and carers should do if they would like their child to have access to a mobile phone;
- what the school will consider as exceptions to the normal regulations.

Policy for children

The school policy is that children should **NOT** bring mobile phones or any form of electronic communication devices to school.

If a child is found in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated by a member of staff for the remainder of the school day. The member of staff will ensure that the mobile phone is stored in the school office in a safe place until the end of the school day when it will be returned to the child. If this happens more than once the mobile will be returned to the parent or carer so that the school can explain why mobile phones are not permitted.

The school does not allow children to use mobile phones in school because:

- there are some concerns about the health risks connected to the frequent use of mobile phones;
- their use in school may distract pupils away from their work;
- mobile phones may be misused (for example, cyber bullying, viewing the Internet inappropriately and sending or receiving inappropriate images of members of the school community);
- staff time could be taken up investigating lost or even stolen mobile phones.

Policy for staff

Staff may be in possession of a mobile phone but it must be switched off (or left on silent) at all times when the adult is working with children. Mobile phones are not to be used in classrooms or school grounds. Staff should not make or receive calls or text messages during the working school day. Mobile phones can be used in the staffroom for private calls outside of a member of staff's working day or during lunch breaks.

School trips

When children are involved in a school trip or activity outside of normal school hours the teacher organising the event will inform the children and parents that they are NOT allowed to bring a mobile phone with them.

Exceptions

If a parent or guardian believes that there is a need for a child to be in possession of a mobile phone while at school they should write to the Headteacher to explain why this is so and why special dispensation should be allowed. The Headteacher will make a decision in all cases.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher will monitor the implementation of the mobile phone policy. The Headteacher will keep a record of all incidents involving mobile phones and will report to governors so that this policy can be reviewed as appropriate. Technology is developing so fast that, in future, the school may wish to explore how smart phones may be very helpful to assist learning. At this time the school may wish to review this policy. However, at the moment the school believes the risks outweigh the benefits of pupils bringing mobile phones to school

This policy will be reviewed by governors every three years or sooner if necessary.