



DANES HILL SCHOOL
STRONG & SAGACIOUS

DATE: 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021

REVIEW DATE: 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022

AUTHOR: DEPUTY OF HEAD

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Mobile Phone Policy

At Danes Hill School the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, offering distractions and disruption to the working day, and which are most susceptible to misuse; including the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. However as it is difficult to detect specific usage, this policy refers to ALL mobile communication devices.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones on site. This includes staff, volunteers, committee members, children, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive.

This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

Code of conduct

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other; thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- Know how to minimise risk.
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.
- Understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- Are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- Are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly.

It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users.

Personal Mobiles – Staff

- Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.
- Staff should have their phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer, handbag or pocket) during class time.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (e.g. classroom, playground).
- Use of phones (inc. receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to non-contact time when no children are present e.g. In the office areas, staff room, empty classrooms.
- It is also advised that staff protect access to functions to their phone.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then staff should make the Head aware of this and can have their phone in case of having to receive an emergency call.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile phones, e.g. to take recordings of children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as cameras.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Deputy Head.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on off-site activities. However, staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs of children).
- Where parents are accompanying trips, they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking during the trip or use their phone to take photographs of children).

Personal Mobiles – Pupils

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones or any internet enabling device at school or on school trips.
- Mobile phones brought to school will be confiscated and given to the Deputy Head. The Deputy Head will then return the mobile phone to the parent.
- Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the Head does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site'.

Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors

All volunteers, visitors, governors and contractors are expected to follow our mobile phone policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises.

Parents

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as an essential means of communication at all times.

We therefore ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is courteous and appropriate to the school environment.

We also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones **but insist that parents do not publish images (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own.**

Dissemination

The mobile phone policy will be shared with staff and volunteers as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school website.