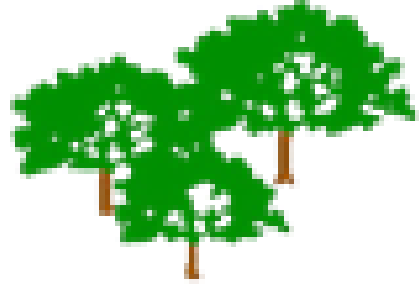


Grove Street Primary and Nursery School

Grove Street
Primary School



MINDS | LEARNING | FUTURES

Every child deserves a Champion

Mobile Phone Policy

Date of Policy	September 2023	Due for Review	September 2026
Headteacher Signature	<i>Lisa Walsh</i>		

Contents

1. Introduction and aims. 3
2. Roles and responsibilities. 3
3. Use of mobile phones by staff 4
4. Use of mobile phones by pupils. 5
5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors. 6
6. Loss, theft or damage. 7
7. Monitoring and review. 7
8. Appendix 1: Code of conduct/acceptable use agreement for children. 9
9. Appendix 2: Mobile phone information for visitors

1. Introduction and aims

At Grove Street Primary we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our children, parents/carers and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use

Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for children, staff, parents/carers and volunteers

Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The SLT are responsible for monitoring the policy every three years, reviewing it, and holding staff and children accountable for its implementation.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present/during contact time. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number 0151 645 2170 as a point of emergency contact.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information, including entering such data into generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT and Google Bard).

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents/carers or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents/carers or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits (School mobile phone to be used or withhold personal number)

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents/carers. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office

3.6 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the school's staff disciplinary policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

While we acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school, **Grove Street Primary School discourages children from bringing one to school.**

- Parents and children must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before they are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.
- The Acceptable Use Policy applies to children during school hours on the school site. **Mobile phones are not permitted on school trips or residential trips.**
- If parents need to contact children for any reason during the school day, this should be done via the school office and not via the child's mobile phone.

- If children bring a mobile phone to school, *the phone must be switched off until they leave the school premises at the end of the day.*
- Children must hand their mobile phones to their class teacher on arrival at school.
- Children’s mobile phones will be kept locked away until the end of the school day.
- Mobile phones seen on the school premises being used at an inappropriate time will be confiscated immediately by a member of staff until the end of the day. At this time, it will be the responsibility of the parents to collect the phone from school, not the child’s.
- If a child is found taking photographs or video with a mobile phone of anyone, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken including a meeting with parents and possibly the Police.
- **The school cannot be held responsible for the security of children’s mobile phones at any time.**
- Staff have the power to search children’s phones, as set out in the [DfE’s guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). The DfE guidance allows you to search a child’s phone if you have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.
- Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:
 - Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
 - Upskirting
 - Threats of violence or assault
 - Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone’s ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of children, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils
- Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents/carers
- Take photos or recordings of children, their work, or anything else which could identify a child

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for children using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

Children bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled and are stored securely at the front office.

Children must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while children are travelling to and from school.

If your school confiscates phones from pupils, add:

Confiscated phones will be stored in the school office/ in locked cabinet.

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact

the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of children's education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

8. Appendix 1: Code of conduct / acceptable use for children

"I agree not to bring a personal mobile phone to school or on school trips/visits unless a teacher has given me written permission to do so."

You must obey the following rules if you bring your mobile phone to school:

1. You may not use your mobile phone during lessons, unless the teacher specifically allows you to.
2. Phones must be switched off (not just put on 'silent').
3. You may not use your mobile phone in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other pupils.
4. You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils without their consent.
5. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
6. Don't share your phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else.
7. Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
 - a. Email
 - b. Text/messaging app
 - c. Social media
8. Don't use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal. For

instance, by 'sexting'.

9. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone even when you aren't in school.
10. Don't use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour policy.
11. Don't use your phone to view or share pornography or other harmful content.
12. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or hand over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.
13. Mobile phones are not permitted in any internal or external exam or test environment. If you have a mobile phone, you will be asked to store these appropriately, or turn them over to an exam invigilator, before entering the test room. Bringing a phone into the test room can result in your exam being declared invalid.

11. Appendix 4: Template mobile phone information slip for visitors

Use of mobile phones in our school

Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds

Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to an office.

Do not take photos or recordings of children(unless it is your own child), or staff

Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with children

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.