Mobile Phone Policy

September 2022
Policy Review: Spring 2026
Policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or more regularly in light of any significant new developments

Our Vision

At Chorlton Park Primary School our vision is to create a learning environment where all pupils feel safe, secure and able to make the biggest possible contribution towards their own learning and that of others. We believe that by working together, we can establish a climate where learners work collaboratively and in partnership to ensure the quality of learning is of the highest standard.

Chorlton Park Primary School is a Rights Respecting School, based upon the Convention for the Rights of the Child. The rights within this convention cover basic needs, including education, health, being heard and experiencing a safe and secure childhood. We believe that all children should grow up aware of these rights and respecting these rights for themselves and for others.

In consultation with the children, staff, parents and governors at Chorlton Park Primary School we have developed this policy which aims to encourage children to learn, work and play together to maintain these rights respecting ethos.

Being a Rights Respecting School underpins this whole school policy and we believe that this will promote positive behaviour and develop successful, responsible citizens for the future.

Contents

1. Introduction and aims 2

2. Roles and responsibilities 2

3. Use of mobile phones by staff 2

5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors 4

6. Loss, theft or damage 5

7. Appendix 1: Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school 6

1. Introduction and aims

At Chorlton Park we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents 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 pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection.

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 headteachers are responsible for monitoring the policy every 3 years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Mobile phones should be out of sight and left in a safe place during class times. 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. 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 staff room).

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 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.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents 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 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. (Staff will enter 141 before calling to block their number) Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner.
- 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. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or using a school mobile.

3.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by the school for work purposes. Only authorised staff are permitted to use school phones, and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.
Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communications, or using the internet
- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with our staff code of conduct.

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

When a child needs to bring a phone into school, a permission slip must be signed by the parent and the phone must be left in the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. Phones should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own phone. Parents are advised that we accept no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a permission slip be returned the next day.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken.

If images of other pupils or staff member have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a senior teacher. Should a pupil be found to be using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be allowed the phone in school.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils.

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

Parents, 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:

- 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 one of the staffrooms.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents, 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 or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

6. Loss, theft or damage

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 pupils are travelling to and from school.

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

Appendix 1: Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school

PUPIL DETAILS	
Pupil name:	
Year group/class:	
Parent(s) name(s):	

The school has agreed to allow _____ to bring [his/her] mobile phone to school.

Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must abide by the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.

The school reserves the right revoke permission if pupils don't abide by the policy.

Parent signature: _____