

St Mary's CE School Mobile Phone Policy Year 5 & 6 ONLY

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and can play an important role in helping pupils feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and may provide a means of bullying or intimidating others if used inappropriately.

Year 5 & 6 pupils who walk to or from school independently may bring a mobile phone for safety reasons, with their parents'/carers' consent (please complete the online form).

Important conditions:

- Parents/carers must complete online form acknowledging this Mobile Phone Policy with their child before bringing a phone to school
- Pupils are responsible for keeping their phone safe - the school cannot be held responsible for stolen or lost devices
- We advise against bringing expensive mobile phones to school

Mobile Phone Policy

1. Usage Times

- Mobile phones may **ONLY** be used on the journey to and from school only
- Phones must be switched off upon arrival at school and on again once off the school premises.
- Phones are not permitted during school trips and residentials

2. Storage During School Hours

- Pupils must turn off their phones (not silent mode) and hand them to their class teacher upon arrival
- Phones will be locked away securely during the school day
- Phones must be collected from the class teacher at the end of the day
- Phones must not remain in pupils' possession (pockets, bags, or trays)

3. Emergency Contact

- Pupils are not permitted to use phones at any point during the school day while on school premises, In genuine emergencies, pupils/parents/carers can be contacted via the school office.

4. Consequences for Policy Breaches - Headteachers are backed by the DfE to confiscate mobile phones and similar devices for the length of time they deem proportionate. Phones brought to school without completion of the online form, or any breach of this policy (such as failing to hand the phone to the class teacher), will result in:

- The phone being confiscated by a staff member & stored by a member of SLT
- Collection required by the child's parents/carers

5. Other Electronic Devices

The following devices are not permitted in school and will be confiscated for parent/carer collection:

- Tablets
- Cameras
- Smartwatches

Social Media Guidelines

Please note that social media platforms have age restrictions:

- **WhatsApp:** 16 years old
- **Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat:** 13 years old
- **YouTube:** 18 years old (or 13 years old with parental permission)

We encourage parents to monitor their child's phone use outside school hours. Any reports of social media misuse between children will be taken very seriously, and we encourage families to work with the school and raise any concerns with the class teacher in the first instance.

[DFE Mobile phone in schools – Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day – February 2024](#) - Headteachers, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as set out in legislation⁷ or any item identified in the school rules as an item that may be searched for. Headteachers can and should identify mobile phones and similar devices as something that may be searched for in their school behaviour policy. Staff should refer to the searching, screening and confiscation in schools guidance regarding searching a pupil.