

Fountain Primary School & Nursery Unit



POLICY ON THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.

DATE CREATED: September 2020

DATE APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVENORS: September 2020

NEXT POLICY REVIEW DATE: June 2021

REVIEWD BY: ICT Co-ordinator, Child Protection Officer, Principal

SIGNED: _____

PRINT: _____

DATE: _____



RATIONALE

Fountain Primary School and Nursery Unit accepts that some parents/guardians give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Fountain Primary School and Nursery Unit therefore has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Related Technologies. The policy provides teachers, pupils, parents/guardians with guidelines and instructions for their appropriate use during school hours.

- This policy also applies to students during school excursions and extra-curricular activities.
- Fountain Primary School & Nursery Unit **strongly discourages** pupils from bringing mobile phones to school.
- The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. If pupils bring mobile phones to school, the phones must be switched off and given to the class teacher to keep in a secure place until the end of the school day.
- Should parents need to contact pupils during the school day, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone during the school day, the phone may be taken from the pupil and stored by their class teacher. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day and the child's parent/guardian will be contacted.
- Children's phones must **NEVER** be used to photograph within the school or on school trips.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone inappropriately (eg. Phone calls on school premises, to send inappropriate texts or to take inappropriate photographs/video footage of either other pupils or teachers), this will be regarded as a serious offence and the Principal will decide on appropriate disciplinary action in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.
- It should be noted that it is a **criminal offence** to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The Principal or a member of the school's SLT may consider it appropriate to refer any such matter to the PSNI.
- If images (photographic or video) of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the child's phone will not be returned to the pupil until the pupil, in the presence of a member of the SLT or the child's parent/guardian has removed the images. A member of the school's SLT will always contact a parent/guardian before asking a child to delete material from their mobile phone.
- A member of the school's SLT will contact parents/guardians in all cases where inappropriate photographs/video/audio footage has been found.

RELATED TECHNOLOGY

- The procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of related technologies with similar capabilities, eg, messaging, recording (audio & video), photography etc.



EXEMPTIONS

- Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances. Pupils may be allowed to use these technologies under the specific guidance of their teacher on a specific day, e.g. the last day of term.

CONCLUSION

- This policy will be reviewed in the summer term of the academic year 2020/21 or amended in advance of this timescale as appropriate in line with guidance/legislation.