



# **Thistly Meadow Primary School**

## **MOBILE DEVICE POLICY**

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### Introduction

Thistly Meadow Primary School recognises that staff may need to have access to mobile phones and devices on site during the working day. However, there have been a number of safeguarding queries raised within the local authority and nationally regarding the use of mobile devices in educational settings. The concerns are mainly based around these issues:

- The use of mobile devices around children
- The inappropriate use of mobile devices
- Staff being distracted from their work with children

### Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal or work-related mobile devices on site. This includes staff, volunteers, children, young people, parents/ carers, visitors and community users. This list is not exhaustive.

### Aim

To ensure the safety and welfare of the children in our care this policy outlines the protocols for the use of personal mobile devices and cameras in the school.

The development of mobile technology is such that mobile phones and other similar devices connected to mobile networks have enhanced features which include: picture messaging; mobile access to the Internet; entertainment in the form of video streaming and downloadable video clips from films, sporting events, music and games etc. The capabilities of 3G and 4G mobile phones also means that adults working within the school environment may be sent inappropriate images or videos, or be encouraged to send back images or video of themselves using integrated cameras.

If you are sent inappropriate material e.g. images or videos **report it immediately**.

### Use of mobile devices by staff, governors, volunteers and visitors

- All staff must ensure that their mobile phones, personal cameras and recording devices are stored securely during working hours away from teaching areas when on school premises or under their personal control when on outings. Staff should limit their use to necessary communication during breaktimes in the school day. (This includes visitors, volunteers and students). **Mobile phones and devices must not be used in any teaching area, toilet and changing areas.**

- For reasons of safety and security, staff, governors and volunteers are prohibited from using their personal mobile phone or any other technology in school to take photographs, videos or make recording of pupils or staff. All images and recordings should be taken using only the school's cameras and iPads. Photos should be put on the school server/social media as soon as possible and the cameras cleared of photographs on a weekly basis. There should be no unauthorised photography of children.

Anyone found breaching this requirement may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

- Exceptionally, photographs may be taken on personal devices with the Head teacher's express consent at external events, activities or trips for the purpose of adding to the school's social media only by authorised users. These must be uploaded as soon as possible and deleted from the device immediately.
- During school outings staff will be permitted to use the school mobile (if held) or their personal mobile for emergency or contact purposes only. These numbers must not be disclosed to parents.
- All telephone contact with parents or carers must be made on the school phone and the school's behaviour recording system OTrack or CPOMS updated if appropriate.
- Parents or carers are permitted to take photographs of their own children during a school production or event. School policy requires that photos of other people's children are not published on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter etc. (see policy Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct) and parents will be reminded of this at the start of the events.
- Visitors may only use their phones in the foyer or outside the building and should be challenged if seen using a camera inappropriately or photographing children.
- Volunteers are given information regarding the use of mobile phones and devices in school as part of their induction. If they wish to make or take an emergency call they may use the school phones.

### **Use of mobile phones by children**

Pupils should not use mobile phones within the school grounds and should not bring in mobile phones (or any other form of recording device) to school, except in exceptional circumstances about which the school has been informed. In such circumstances, the child's phone must be kept locked away in the school office until they go home. Mobile phones are not permitted on school trips, school journeys or at school discos.

### **Further reference**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding policy, Online Safety policy, Code of Conduct for Employees and the EYFS Framework.

Version	Date	Comment
V1	Date created: 1/3/2021 Review date: March 2024	A Gordon