Together, anything is possible

Abbey CE Academy Phone Policy

Children from Year 3 may not bring a phone to school at all.

Children from Year 4-6 may only bring in a mobile phone if:

- **they walk to and from school without adult supervision and**
- **have the written permission of their parent or carer by completing a permission form that can be requested via MCAS**
- **they follow the rules of the agreement**

Why does Abbey CE Academy not allow children's mobile phones on site?

Mobile phones are great pieces of technology that help everyone benefit from immediate communication, mobile internet and social networking. However, as a primary school we recognise that they are very expensive and there is scope for their misuse. The same rules for mobile phone use in school applies to school staff who are restricted to using only school-issued phones or I-Pads around the children and on school trips and may not use their personal phones in school except in office areas and the staff room. Personal mobile phone use is prohibited in classrooms.

How can mobile phones be misused?

There's lots of ways that children and adults can cause harm when they misuse their mobile phones. Many of these areas, as well as safe use, are covered in classes during Computing and Personal, Social and Health Education:

- Online bullying by text, image and instant messaging
- taking and sharing inappropriate pictures with and without consent
- access to inappropriate websites bypassing school filters
- accessing phones in lessons and at break time

Of course, primary age children are restricted on social media, but as they grow older, posting and commenting on images of other children, teachers and other images taken during the school day can become problematic for other people and can in some circumstances become a police matter.

If you are concerned that any of the above or any other aspect of E-Safety is happening to your child, please contact the School Office who will put you in touch with a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What if my child brings a phone to school without prior agreement or if agreement has been withdrawn?

If a child in any year group brings a phone to school without agreement, it will be handed over to the school office for safe keeping during the day. A parent or carer must collect it from the office (not the child).

Staff may ask to see the content of the phone (see below*). If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or member of staff, this will be regarded as a serious offence, and disciplinary action will be taken according to our Behaviour Policy. If images of other pupils or members of staff have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been fully removed by the pupil in the presence of a senior teacher.

If there is found to be safeguarding concerns relating to the images or content, then the school will follow its Safeguarding Policy as appropriate.

What are the rules to follow if parents/carers have signed consent?

Year 4 - Year 6 children and their parents/carers first agree with the following limitations on use, namely:

- all mobile phones should be named and handed to the school office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day. Phones should be protected with a PIN-code or other security measures.

- mobile phones must be switched off at all times during the school day, and remain off whilst pupils are on the school premises.

- it is not permitted to film or photograph anyone on school grounds at any point.

- content on the phone (e.g. messages, emails, pictures, videos, sound files) will be shown to senior members of staff when requested*.

Phones are expensive so, for their personal safety, children should be reminded to keep their mobile phones away and hidden when walking to and from school, and to make sure that their phone is PIN-code protected and is able to be disabled if it is lost/stolen, as this protects the child's information

If the child is found to have breached the rules of the agreement, then Abbey CE Academy will withdraw permission and any phones in the possession of the school will need to be collected by parent/carer.

***Examining content on phones**

The Education Act 2011 gives school staff the right to seize and look through electronic devices if it is deemed that there is a good reason to do so. Pages 12-13 of the DfE advice (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf) explain that a staff member who finds an electronic device on a pupil after a search may examine and/or erase any data or files on the device, as long as they think there is a 'good reason' to do so. When deciding whether there is a good reason to examine or erase data or files, the staff member must reasonably suspect that the data or file on the device in question has been, or could be, used to cause harm, disrupt teaching, or break the school rules. If inappropriate material is found on the device the staff member should inform the safeguarding lead as soon as possible whilst retaining the evidence on the phone.

Parents and Carers

We ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is courteous and appropriate to the school environment.

We also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones – but insist that parents **do not publish images** (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own.

Parents and children must sign to agree to this policy on the following link: -

Abbey CE Academy Mobile Phone Policy 2026/2027 – Fill in form