

# Cobden Primary School

## Mobile Phone Policy



Approved by:	[Sarah Murray]	Date: 26.9.22
Last reviewed on:	September 2022	
Next review due by:	September 2023	

## Aim

At Cobden Primary school, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear mobile user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, which can be both distracting and susceptible to misuse, including the taking and distribution of inappropriate images and cyberbullying.

We accept that many children have and use mobile phones at home, but we would recommend that they are removed before bedtime to avoid distraction and conversations that cannot be monitored. Mobile phones and online communication platforms (such as WhatsApp) can play a significant role in online bullying and intimidation and, as a school, we take this very seriously. We want to work together in this regard to protect our pupils, including through the delivery of thorough e-safety education, which includes online/cyberbullying. We suggest that parents regularly monitor all communication via mobile phone to avoid misuse.

## Personal Mobiles

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

Therefore:

- Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones into school if they are walking to or from school without parents (normally pupils in Years 5/ 6 )
- The phone must be handed in, switched off, to the class teacher and it will be stored Securely in a lock box in class throughout the day for safekeeping
- Whilst school staff will make every effort to ensure that the phone is kept safely and securely, the phone is left at the owner's own risk; school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage

- Pupils bringing phones to school should ensure that phones are appropriately labelled or easily recognisable
- Pupils should secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions
- Pupils must not take photographs or videos of either pupils or teachers whilst at school
- Phones must not be taken on school trips/visits
- Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, the Anti-Bullying policy will take effect

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 a pupil is found to be in breach of this policy, we reserve the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their phone into school.**

**The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.**