



Oxenhope Church of England Primary School
Mobile phone and devices in school policy AND
Acceptable use contracts



If you are concerned about the safety of a child, act!

Our Named Persons for Child Protection are Alice Jones (Head Teacher), Gillian Dyson (Pastoral Manager), Caroline Auty (Class Teacher), Laura Smales (Learning Support Assistant), Joanne Brown (Class Teacher) and Oliver Thurlby (Class Teacher)

Useful phone numbers:

School – 01535 642271

Social Services Initial Contact Point 01274 437500

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

West Yorkshire Police – 101 or 999

This policy must be read alongside the school's child protection and safeguarding policy

Created By:	Last reviewed:	Next Review Date:
A Jones	February 2024	September 2026

School Vision

We provide the rich soil allowing children and adults to flourish and develop deep roots. We nurture **growth**, enabling children and adults to thrive as our Christian values blossom in their lives. We cultivate a sense of pride in our rural **community** where children and adults are **loved** and valued.

May our children flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants. Psalm 144 v 12.

Throughout our curriculum and school life, along with our school vision, these three golden strands permeate through everything we do.

Community

Jesus often spoke of unity in our communities and encouraging one another on our journey. He spoke of bearing each other's burdens in love and helping those in need.

'Live in harmony with one another.' Romans 12 v 16



Love

It says in the Bible that God is Love and encompasses all that is loving and good. Jesus showed the ultimate unconditional love when he laid down his life for us on the cross. Therefore, this love should lead to a desire to love other people.

'Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.' Ephesians 5 v 2



Growth

Just like a plant, we must endure the difficult times along with the good; but God has sent us his Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us so we can bear fruit and grow in the likeness of Christ.

'Grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' 2 Peter 3 v 18



Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The school's behaviour policy
- Keeping children safe in education
- Staff code of conduct
- The safeguarding and child protection policy
- The Government Guidance on Mobile Phones in Schools

Introduction and rationale

Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone.

Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption, and diversion. This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning. We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils have experienced bullying online.

By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices. This is why we are determined that all schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day – not only during lessons but break and lunchtimes as well. Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety, or depression.

By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

Schools can help children and young people develop these habits, which will in turn help them thrive outside of school. During recent stakeholder engagement, headteachers and leaders reported that after removing mobile phones from the school day, the whole culture of the school changes for the better. The environment becomes safer, protecting pupils not only from the short-term distraction of a notification but also the background noise of their lives outside school. Without their mobile phone at school, pupils have the headspace and calm to focus on their lessons.

At Oxenhope C of E Primary School, we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents, and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents, and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:
 - Risks to child protection
 - Data protection issues
 - Potential for lesson disruption
 - Risk of theft, loss, or damage
 - Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

Roles and responsibilities

Staff and Volunteers

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy. Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy. The headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years (or when new guidance is published), reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

Governors

The school governors are responsible for ensuring this policy is fully enacted.

Parents and carers

To read this policy and understand the content. Inform the school office if they do not want their child's image and information used on the school's website, displays in school or on social media. Read and sign the acceptable use contract.

Pupils

Follow the rules the school put in place around handing in devices at the start of the school day. Use technology responsibly keeping in mind the learning around Online Safety. To read and sign the acceptable use contract.

Use of mobile phones / devices by staff

Staff (including volunteers, contractors, and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send personal messages, while directly in the presence of a pupil(s).

Use of mobile phones for personal use must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room).

There are circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members
- For personal medical appointment or correspondence
- Communication with school-on-school visits/ visits to the nature area.

The headteacher/SLT should be aware if staff are accessing their mobile phones in the above circumstances. The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements. If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office telephone number as a point of emergency contact.

Mobile phones/devices are sometimes used in school for music purposes. Staff must speak to the headteacher before using their mobile phone for music. Where possible this should be a last resort.

Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

If a staff member felt it necessary to use their phone to take a photo, this must be deleted straight after uploading or sending to a school account. The use of a specific app to support the learning of a pupil(s) (on a

personal device) is permitted only if it does not record personal information (photographs / confidential details), however staff must recognise that their devices are used at their own risk and that they are liable for any damage caused.

Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Dojo app
- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential/ school visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office (unless in exceptional circumstances)

Use of mobile phones / personal electronic devices by pupils

Pupils are not permitted to use a mobile phone / or any other external communication device (e.g. a smart watch or tablet- that allows external communication) whilst at school.

Any pupil who has a mobile phone for their journey to and from school (as provided by a parent) – will need to hand the device into the teacher at the beginning of the day and have it returned at the end. These must be given in to the office by the classroom staff at the start of the day.

Smart watches are permitted if the child wearing it uses it only as a watch / fitness monitor. Apps and features such as music, camera, texts, messaging, and phone use are not to be engaged with under any circumstance and the device will be confiscated if apps such as these are used.

If a child needs to bring devices to school to transfer between parents and carers houses, these must also be handed in at the start of the day and not remain in bags.

All devices that are brought in by children are done so at their own risk and the parents will accept full liability for any damages caused.

Sanctions

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct.

The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone because of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation

Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers, and visitors

Parents, visitors, and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as celebration worship), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents, visitors, and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school. Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out above.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

Loss, theft, or damage

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions.

Staff must also secure their personal phones. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

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

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. The headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years.

When reviewing the policy, the school will consider:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

The Acceptable Use Contract – for parents and carers

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the main entrance area.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds. A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.
- Do not contact school staff about school matters on private numbers/Facebook messenger/messenger sites.
- Contact school staff through Dojo or email/phone the school office.
- Support the school's endeavours regarding online safety
- Seek advice about online safety

Child's name			
Signed		Date	

The Acceptable Use Contract – for staff, volunteers and visitors

Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds.

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A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.

Member of staff's name:			
Signed		Date	

The Acceptable Use Contract – for Pupils

It is important that you follow these rules to keep yourself safe:

- 📱 If you bring a phone or tablet to school, you hand it in to your teacher.
- 📱 You remember our online safety rules:

BE SMART ONLINE

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

My name is:

Date: