



Mobile Phone Policy 2019-2020



Policy & Procedure Number: 40

Date of Board of Governors Review: Spring 2020

Next Review Due: Summer 2020

School Link: Mr Sean Moran

Revision Number: 02



INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the acceptable use of mobile phones at Wade Deacon High School in the context of safeguarding, underpinned by our statement of vision and values which permeates everything we do and say. At Wade Deacon we recognise the vulnerability of our children and the potential for exploitation and abuse through the inappropriate use of mobile phones. We take steps to ensure that our safeguarding procedures are all-encompassing and robust.

AIMS

The policy aims to:

- Ensure that there is clear and shared understanding of and adherence to its principles of by all stakeholders and visitors (including contractors, kitchen staff, mid-day cleaners)
- Raise the awareness of all staff (including students on placement, volunteers and those from supply agencies) of the crucial role of safeguarding in all areas of school life
- Alert staff members to the potential for predatory behaviour in a range of contexts through various means and ensure increased vigilance
- Secure an environment in which children (and their families) are protected from the risk of images being recorded and used/stored for inappropriate purposes
- Make sure that children receive the undivided attention of adults at all time

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Every child has a right to be valued as an individual and treated with dignity and respect
- The safeguarding of children is of paramount importance
- All children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm
- Every staff member is accountable for the safeguarding of our children

MOBILE PHONES- ACCEPTABLE USE

At Wade Deacon High School we recognise that mobile phones play an important part in the lives of a significant majority of adults and, when used as they are intended, can bring substantial benefits. We also acknowledge that there is a risk that they can be used for the taking, storing and using of images inappropriately in a way that denies children's right to dignity, privacy and respect and satiates a desire to exploit. They also have the potential to distract staff from their work with children.

Staff members (including volunteers and students on placement) may bring mobile phones onto the school site on the understanding that the device:

- Is used only in the staffroom, outside of the school gate, or (in exceptional circumstances) in office spaces
- Is kept on their person or stored in a designated place away from children (drawer or cupboard)
- Is only used during break times and at either end of the school day
- Is not used as a point of contact by relatives, friends, child's school, GP, etc.



(Staff must ensure that all potential contacts have the school landline number so that initial contact is made directly to the school office)

When off-site, designated members of the group will have a mobile phone available for emergency contact with the school, with each other or with the emergency services. In this context phones will not be used to make or receive personal calls

Personal mobile phones must not be used to take photos of children except in very exceptional circumstances when permission from a senior leader must be sought and granted in advance and the image erased as soon as possible in the presence of a work colleague. Teachers should not use a personal mobile phone, outside of the school day, to exchange information with parents.

The above information is shared with new staff members as part of the induction process.

Mobile Phones – Visitors (including parents, professionals, contractors)

- Visitors may bring mobile phones on to the school site but, when visiting the main school, are asked to either switch them off or switch them to silent mode and place them out-of-sight until they leave the building and have exited the school gate.
- Visitors waiting briefly in reception – e.g. to collect a child – may keep phones to hand but they must be stored out of sight and not used.
- Visitors attending courses in the meeting rooms may use their phones once inside those rooms. On leaving, phones must be switched off and kept out-of-sight until outside of the school gate.
- Visitors found to be using their phones in contravention of this guidance will initially be reminded of the policy and ultimately asked to leave.
- Where possible, all visitors are made aware of the mobile phone policy in advance either through written or verbal communication (e.g. for parents this may be in 'New Starter' documentation, school newsletters, letters inviting parents to annual review meetings, mailings, emails, etc).
- If contractors are required to have their mobile phone to hand in order to convey live information to their line manager or head office they will seek prior permission to do so in advance and will be accompanied around the site.
- The use of personal mobiles to take photographs of the site (internal or external e.g. corridors, classrooms, central areas, swimming pool, etc.) of children or of staff is strictly prohibited unless in consultation and prior agreement with school leaders.
- Visitors may use their mobile phones whilst inside and out of view of children but are not to take phones to the outside space from which children may be visible.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all staff members to exercise vigilance at all times and to raise concerns as soon as possible, either directly with the person who is contravening expectations or by reporting the incident to a senior leader as soon as possible after the event.



Senior Leaders will investigate the detail surrounding reported incidents and take action accordingly. If a staff member is found to have contravened policy expectations the matter will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

Related Documentation:

Safeguarding Policy

E-safety policy

DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (March 2015)

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015)