



St Mary's CE Infant School Mobile Phone and Camera Policy

The staff at St Mary's CE Infant School are committed to ensuring the safety of children in their care. They recognise the importance of mobile phones in school for communication purposes, but are aware that casual or inappropriate use of mobile phones in the School could pose a risk to children.

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers, and covers both indoor and outdoor areas. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Staff personal mobile phones

- Staff will not carry personal mobile phones while working. This protects staff from being distracted from their work, and from allegations of inappropriate use. Their phones will be kept in an agreed area in the school.
- If staff have a break time during their working hours, they may use their mobile phones during these times, in the staff resource base, or the headteacher's office as long as children are not present.
- Where it is essential for staff to make a personal call during a session, they should, (with the agreement of their line manager), make this in the agreed area not used by children.
- Staff must give the school telephone number to their next of kin, in case it is necessary for the staff member to be contacted, in an emergency, during session hours
- A mobile phone will be taken on whole-group outings in accordance with guidance. The *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* states that providers should take contact telephone numbers and a mobile phone on outings.

Children

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones into the school/setting.

Visitors and parents/carers

The school will display a notice advising visitors and parents/carers that mobile phones are not to be used in the setting. If a visitor or parent/carer is seen using their mobile phone, they will be asked to use it away from the children.

The School notes the following Ofsted advice

'If inspectors observe, or become aware of, staff using a mobile phone for non-essential purposes they will consider drawing this to the attention of the manager, supervisor or registered provider. They will also consider if the staff member was meeting the needs of the children, when using the telephone, and consider the impact on inspection judgements, including setting an action.'

Photographs

It is recognised that one of the key ways to support children's development, and engage parents in children's learning, is through photographs that record their children's activities and achievements.

We will seek permission from parents/carers to take photographs of their children for this purpose, using the school's own cameras or iPads.

Camera or video functions on mobile phones must not be used whilst in school.