



FROEBEL HOUSE SCHOOL
MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

Introduction and Aims:

At Froebel House School the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Device Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile devices are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, offering distractions and disruption to the working day, and which are most susceptible to misuse - including the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. However, as it is difficult to detect specific usage, this policy refers to ALL mobile communication devices including 3G, 4G and 5G technology.

Scope:

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile devices on site. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, children, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive. This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Keeping children safe in education 2023 Statutory guidance for schools and colleges - 2023
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools

Code of conduct:

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other; thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- know how to minimise risk.

- avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.
- understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly. It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

Personal Mobiles –

Staff:

- Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.
- Staff should have their phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer or locker) during class time.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (eg. classroom, playground).
- Use of phones (including receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to noncontact time when no children are present e.g. in office areas, staff room, empty classrooms.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then staff should make the Headteacher aware of this and can have their device in case of having to receive an emergency call.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile device, for example: to take recordings of children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as the school cameras and ipad's only.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.
- The use of a mobile device may be allowed in certain circumstances, but this should be with the consent of the Headteacher only.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes:

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on off-site activities.

However, staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs of children).

- Mobile phones should not be used to contact parents during school trips – all relevant communications should be made via the Headteacher and school office only.
- Where parents are accompanying trips, they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking) during the trip or use their phone to take photographs of children.
- Special arrangements may be made during residential trips.

Business devices:

Any employees who have been provided with a mobile device for business use, must ensure the mobile used is solely for this reason, unless express permission has been given that the phone can also be used for personal use. Schools have the authority in place to ensure that mobile device and associated phone bills are checked on a regular basis.

Personal devices:

Pupils We recognise that mobile devices 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 not permitted to have mobile phones at school; during out of school activities (including discos, holiday and afterschool clubs) or on trips
- If in the rare event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile device to school to contact the parent after school:
- the parent must discuss the issue first with their child's teacher.
- the device must be handed in, switched off, to the teacher first thing in the morning to be stored in the school office and collected from there by the child at home time (the device is left at the owner's own risk).
- Mobile device brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day to an appropriate adult.
- Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the head teacher does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site' - refer to Anti-Bullying Policy.

Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors:

All Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors are expected to follow our mobile device policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises. On arrival, such visitors will be informed of our expectations around the use of mobile device.

Parents:

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile devices while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication at all times. We therefore 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. Please refer to Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools.

Dissemination:

The mobile device policy will be shared with staff and volunteers as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school office and website.

DfE guide on screening and searching - what the law allows (NB this guidance is currently under review) "Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so."

National Guidance

The following national guidance should also be referred to:

- DfE: Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022
- DfE: Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff September 2022

Produced by: Mrs L A Roberts, Interim-Headteacher

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