



# Balby Central Primary School

## Policy for Mobile Phone usage by pupils

**Date of Policy: November 2015**

**Approved by the Governing Body:**

**Review Date: September 2019**

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, pupils, and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at schools.

This policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide can continue to be enjoyed by our students. Mobile phones are considered banned items unless used in accordance with this policy and as such can be searched for and confiscated.

Copies of the policy are available on the school website and in the school's policy file which pupils, their parents or guardians must read before pupils are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.

The policy for mobile phones also applies to pupils during school visits, residential and extra-curricular activities.

### **Use of mobile phones in school**

Use of mobile phones presents a number of problems, including:

- Mobile phones can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft;

- Mobile phones (and their cost and level of sophistication - or otherwise) can make pupils objects of envy and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying;
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobiles phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline and distract the pupils learning;
- Use of the newer phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

Balby Central Primary School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children walking to school alone or travelling alone on public transport. It is recognised that providing a child with a mobile phone doesn't make them safe but rather gives parents and pupils reassurance that they can contact each other if they need to speak urgently.

### **Policy of the use and possession of mobile phones by pupils**

School advises all parents to discourage, pupils from bringing mobile phones/devices to schools on the grounds, they are valuable items and may be lost or stolen and there is no necessity during school time for any child to require access to such a device.

If pupils do bring their mobile phone/device to school during school hours, then it must remain switched off and kept in the school office. It may not be used, for any purpose, on school premises, grounds or during off-site school activities (such as school swimming or sports activities), unless agreed by the head teacher or other senior teacher i.e. only for emergency use.

Where a child is found, by a member of staff, to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent or guardian.

Teaching staff reserve the right to view the content of any child's mobile phone at any time in respect to issues regarding the safeguarding of children.

This policy is linked into the school's behaviour policy. The school will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of school rules and discipline accordingly.

### **Safe use of mobile phones**

- Pupils should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the pupil's number from unwanted messages and calls.
- Pupils are advised not to use their mobile phones as they walk to school, unless there is an emergency, so that they are paying full attention to crossing roads and to avoid any potential theft.

### **Unacceptable Uses**

- Unless express permission is granted by the head teacher, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school time
- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.
- Using mobile phones to photograph or film any child is unacceptable

### **Theft or damage**

***School will accept NO responsibility for theft or damage to any mobile device brought to school. In the event that the recommendations to bring mobile devices to school are disregarded then the following procedures will apply:***

- A disclaimer will need to be signed by a Parent or Guardian which states that school will accept no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- Pupils should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.
- Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school should NEVER leave it in their coat/bag
- Mobile phones should be handed in to the office before morning registration and collected at 3.30pm
- The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.