



Mobile Phone Policy

September 2023

Folville Junior School Mobile Phone Policy

Folville Junior School is well aware that many primary age children own a mobile phone or some kind of electronic device, which can be used for communication, taking photographs and videos and we understand the widespread growth in modern mobile electronic communication. However, we are primarily focused on learning and the well-being of our pupils is paramount. Consequently we do not allow children to use mobile phones or mobile communication devices e.g. Apple watches, whilst they are in school and (unless authorised by the senior team) we do not allow children to bring mobile phones or mobile communication devices into school.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this policy is to explain –

- How the school will manage the issue of mobile phones and electronic mobile communications devices in school
- The rationale for this approach
- What parents and carers should do if they would like their child to have access to a mobile phone/electronic mobile communication device
- What the school will consider as exceptional to the normal regulations

Policy for children

- The school policy is that children should not bring mobile phones or any form of mobile electronic communication device to school, except in mitigating circumstances.
- If a parent has asked specifically for their child to be allowed a mobile phone or device as they are walking home alone (or a similar situation) then the child will give the phone/device to the school office who will keep it in a safe place until the end of the school day.
- If this happens more than once, the mobile phone/device will be returned to the parent or carer so that the school can explain why mobile phones/devices are not permitted.
- The school does not allow children to use mobile phones in school (unless in the above circumstances), because –
 - There are some concerns about the health risks connected to the frequent use of mobile phones
 - Their use in school may distract pupils away from their work
 - Mobile phones may be misused (for example, by cyber bullying, viewing the internet inappropriately and sending or receiving inappropriate images of members of the school community
 - Staff time could be taken up investigating lost or even stolen mobile phones
 - The school will accept no responsibility or liability for any mobile phone or device which has been lost, damaged or stolen from the school grounds.

Policy for Staff

- Staff may be in possession of a mobile phone, but it must be switched off (or left on silent) at all times when the adult is working with children during teaching time, but may be used during a break, for example if other schools or parents need to be contacted.
- Staff should not make or receive calls or text messages during the working hours of the school day.
- Mobile phones can be used in the school grounds for private calls outside of a member of staff's working hours of the school day, phones should not be used in the corridor and only used in and around school where there are no children present.
- Volunteers, governors and work experience placement students must abide by the above policy
- No photographs or videos of children must ever be made using personal mobile phones

School Trips

When children are involved in a school trip or activity outside of normal school hours, the teacher organising the event may inform the children involved that they are allowed to bring a mobile phone with them if they wish. This allows children to inform parents and carers of the time of their return and to assist with pupil security.

The lead teacher will make it clear to all the children involved in the activity when they can and cannot use their phones during the day.

For residential trips - no mobile phones need to be taken by the children involved as all staff will have phones and phone numbers so calls can be made if necessary.

Monitoring and review

- The senior team will monitor the implementation of the mobile phone policy and keep a record of all incidents involving mobile phones. The senior team will report to Governors so that this policy can be reviewed as appropriate.
- Technology is developing so fast that, in future, the school may wish to explore how smart phones may be helpful to assist learning. At that time the school may wish to review this policy but at the moment the school believes the risks outweigh the benefits of pupils bringing mobile phones to school.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Governors every three years, or sooner if necessary.