

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**



POLICY ON PUPILS' MOBILE PHONES

*"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus
as we learn, love and grow together"*

School's own version

Document Date: Spring 2021
Review Date: Spring 2022
Reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Chair of Governors

Ratified at Full Governing Body meeting:
Date ratified: 8th December 2020

1 Rationale

1.1 Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and many of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- 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 or disparagement and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying;
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of the classroom discipline; and
- Use of phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regards to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. Please see Hertfordshire advice on "Safe Use of Images".

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought into school, especially given that many are now so slim that they are easily hidden. We also accept that many parents have concerns about children who make their own way to and from school. However, it is not logistically possible to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have mobile phones with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

2 Policy

2.1 The school discourages and advises all parents to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.

2.2 Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone into school, the phone must remain switched off during the school day (8.50am - 3.15pm) and may not be used for any purpose, on school premises (except when a pupil is alerting a parent/carer that they have arrived or are ready to leave), or during off-site activities (such as swimming or sports activities).

2.3 Where a school pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, as above, the phone will be confiscated from the child and only returned to the parent, guardian or carer.

3 Emergencies

3.1 If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they will be allowed to use the school, phone.

3.2 If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

4 Responsibility for mobile phones

The school accepts no responsibility **whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile phones are properly insured and clearly labelled. The school will not investigate any losses of mobile phones.