

Mobile Phone Acceptable Use

Introduction and Aims

At Vibrance, the welfare and well-being of our pupils are paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies while promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines. This is achieved by balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones 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.

Scope

This policy should also be read about the following documentation:

- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- GDPR

Personal Mobiles – Pupils

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and can play an important role in helping pupils feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in provision and provide a means of bullying or intimidating others.

Therefore:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones at Vibrance or on trips
- If in the rare event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school to contact the parent after school:
 - The parent must discuss the issue first with their child's teacher.
 - The phone must be handed in, switched off, and taken to the office first thing in the morning, and the child must collect it from them at home time (the phone is left at the owner's own risk).
- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- A complete phone ban has been put in place throughout the provision. It is advised that phones are kept at home or handed in straight away. If this is not followed, parents or guardians are called to come and collect the phone.

Where mobile phones are used in or out of Vibrance to bully or intimidate others, the head teacher has 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 the Anti-Bullying Policy).

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