



Longridge Church of England Primary School

Berry Lane, Longridge, Preston, PR3 3JA
Headteacher - Mrs J Cooper BEd(Hons)NPQH
www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk

Longridge C. E. Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

Introductions and Aims

At Longridge C. E. Primary School the welfare and well-being of our pupils and staff is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone 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 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 applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones on site. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, children, parents, contractors and visitors. This list is not exhaustive.

This policy should also be read as part of the Safeguarding Portfolio.

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 Christian and morale sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is 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.

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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 by all users.

Personal Mobiles – Staff

- Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls or texts during contact with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.
- Staff should have their mobile phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer, handbag or pocket) during class time.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (e.g. classroom, playground).
- Use of phones (including receiving or sending texts and e mails) should be limited to non- contact time when no children are present e.g in the office, staffroom or empty classroom.
- It is also advised that staff security protect access to functions of their phone.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g an acutely sick relative) then staff should make the headteacher aware of this and can then have their phone in case of receiving an emergency call.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile phones. For example, to take recordings of children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as cameras and I pads.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes.

We recognise that mobile phones provide 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 make contact with parents during school trips – all relevant communications should be made via the school office.
- Where parents are accompanying trips they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, texts, email or social networking) during the trip or use their phone to take photographs of children.

Personal Mobiles – Pupils

- We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping pupils 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:

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- Pupils are not permitted to have their mobile phones at school or on trips.
- On the rare event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school they must a) complete the permission slip available from the office and b) the phone must be handed into the office, switched off and collected at the end of the day.
- Mobile phones brought into school without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the headteacher does have the power to intervene “to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils where they are off school site.”

Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors

All volunteers, visitors, governors and contractors are expected to follow our mobile phone policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises. On arrival, such visitor will be informed of our expectations around the use of mobile phones.

Parents

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as an essential means of communication at all times. We therefore ask that parents’ usage of mobile phones, whilst on school premises 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 image (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own.** Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy.

Dissemination

The mobile phone 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.

Adopted by Governors. June 2017

Review Date June 2018



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