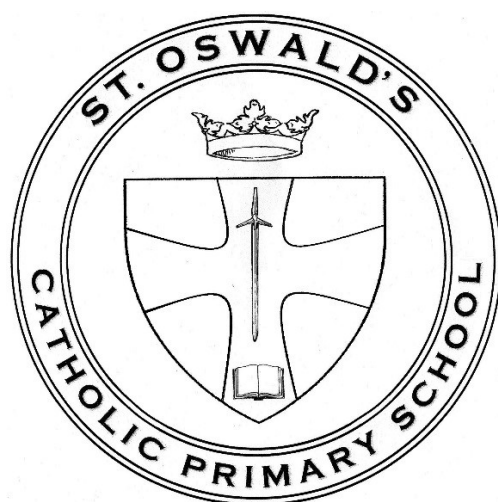


# St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



## Mobile Phone & Digital Devices Policy For Children

<b>Agreed by:</b>	<b>Approval date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
Resources	10/03/22	Spring 2024

## Mission Statement

This is St Oswald's Catholic Primary School's policy for the appropriate use of mobile phones & Digital Devices on our school site, and is set within the context of the whole school aims and Mission Statement:



*"Together with Jesus, we will learn and Grow in Faith".*

### **Aims**

Parents/ carers should discourage pupils from bringing **mobile phones, smart watches or digital devices** to school on the grounds that they are valuable, may be lost or stolen and can create safeguarding issues in school. However, we recognise that in **Year Five/Six** mobile phones may have a part to play in securing pupils personal safety on journeys to/from school. Moreover, a ban would not be consistent with the aim of developing a culture of responsible use of mobile phones and other digital devices by pupils.

Smart Watches are a distraction in lessons so are not allowed in school.

Our expectation is that in all other year groups, Nur-Year 4, pupils will be collected by an adult or responsible person.

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/carers then our admin staff will contact on their behalf. If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

Under no circumstances will pupils be allowed to take mobile phones on school excursions.

### **Procedures:**

**Reception to Year 4:** Pupils are forbidden from bringing a personal phone/ smart watch or digital devices to school. If a child in these year groups brings a phone/ smart watch or digital device into school, it will be confiscated and held in school until an adult collects it from the school office. Continued breaches will result in sanctions for the pupil.

**Pupils in Year 5 and 6:** Pupils are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school to support safety issues **if they are on our list of children allowed by parental letter to come to school and/or leave school independently.**

All mobile phones must be turned off when on school premises, inclusive of the school yard, have name clearly visible, and be placed in the office mobile phone container. The mobile container will be stored in the school office.

If any parents want their child to bring a phone into school, it is on the understanding that they agree with the following limitations on use, namely:

- Parents of Year Five/Six pupils will be asked to complete a permission form and hand it to the class teacher. (Appendix A)
- With consideration to this, it will be made clear to parents that where they have given permission for their child to bring a mobile phone to school, they do so entirely at their own risk.
- **The school accepts no responsibility for any damage, theft or loss whilst the device is on school premises. Phones are brought into school at own risk.**
- If a child brings a phone into school without following the agreed principles, or does not have permission for a phone in school, this will be seen as a serious breach of rules. All misuse of mobile devices will be dealt with under our behaviour rules.

**Examples of misuse of mobile phones, inside and outside school, if the issue causes problems in school:**

- Online bullying by text, image and email messaging.
- Taking and sharing inappropriate pictures.
- Access to inappropriate websites through by-passing the schools filtering system.
- General disruption to learning caused by pupils accessing phones in lessons.
- Making disrespectful comments, mispresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other pupils.
- Pupils posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with deliberate intent of causing harm to others
- The deliberate engineering of situations where people's reactions are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience.
- The use of a mobile phone for `sexting` (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages).

**Inappropriate use of a mobile phone:**

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and a member of the Senior Management Team should be involved from the outset.

If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken the phone will not be returned to a family adult until the images have been deleted.

The parent/carer will be contacted by a member of the SMT. In the rare circumstance that there is evidence of harassment and /or bullying, the phone or digital device should be confiscated, retained in a secure place by an appropriate member of staff, taking care not to delete any images or recordings which could be used as evidence. Parents/carers will be asked to attend a school meeting. Accurate records of any incidents should be recorded on CPOMS, and the Headteacher linked, so that the incidents can be logged in an appropriate file. Serious bullying, violence or sexting will be reported to the Police.

**Sanctions:** Pupils who infringe the agreement set out in this policy will not be allowed to bring their mobile phone into school.

**Confiscation Procedure:** If it becomes necessary to confiscate a mobile phone then, parents will be notified and the pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone without a parent/carer present.

**Guidance of confiscation: Dfe Guidance in Screening & Searching – What the law allows**

“School staff can seize any banned or prohibited item found as a result of a search which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline”

“Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.”

See below the full document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

School hopes that all pupils and parents/Carers will ensure that digital devices are used appropriately and only used for the intended purposes.

## Appendix A

Name of Child ----- Class -----

I/We give permission for my/our child to bring a mobile phone into school for the purpose of health and safety as they journey to and from school.

I agree that the phone will be stored at our own risk in the school office. It will not be used for any circumstances whilst on school grounds and is not to be used to take photographs of staff or pupils at school.

I understand that this is entirely at our own risk and that the school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst the device is on school premises.

Signed ----- Date -----