Where Learning Blossoms

Thorney Close Primary School

Mobile Phone and Device Policy for Pupils

Person responsible for this policy:	Mrs C. Jones
Governor with responsibility for this policy:	Full Governing Body
Date of last review:	March 2024
Due date of next review:	Annually – March 2025



Contents

- Introduction
- Mobile Phones
- Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones and the Internet
- Other Mobile Devices – eg: Smartwatches
- Monitoring and Review

Introduction

We recognise that mobile phones and devices are part of everyday life for many children and young people, and they can be a valuable and important resource.

Children learn about the use of mobile technology during online safety lessons and as part of our PSHE curriculum. It is important that children develop sensible habits surrounding their use and also learn about inappropriate use and the impact this can have.

Mobile Phones

Initially, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide:

- Whether the child is responsible enough to look after their phone and use it appropriately.
- Whether the child understands the safety risks involved.

The following rules apply where a child needs to bring their mobile phone to school:

- Parents/carers need to sign the permission form – available at the end of this policy.
- Phones must not be used anywhere on the school premises. They must be switched off before a pupil enters the school gates and not switched on until leaving the school gates at the end of the day.
- Phones must be handed in to the school office first thing in the morning. Phones will be stored in the school office throughout the day.
- Under no circumstances should there be access to phones during the school day or for phones to be left in pupils' bags or pockets.
- All phones are brought to school at the owner's own risk - school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst on school premises.
- Pupils are not allowed to take mobile phones on school trips or residential visits.

Where these rules are not followed, the following sanctions will be applied:

1. On the first infringement, the mobile phone will be confiscated and kept secure in the school office. The student will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day. A record will be made of the incident and parents/carers will be made aware.

2. On the second infringement the mobile phone will be confiscated and kept secure in the school office. A record will be made of the incident, parents/carers will be notified and asked to collect the phone.

3. If there is a third infringement, or in the event of a serious breach of the rules, school may withdraw the agreement to allow the student to bring a mobile telephone to school.

At Thorney Close Primary School, children should not bring a mobile phone into school, unless this is absolutely necessary – for example, where a child travels to and from school unaccompanied. This only applies to children in year 5 and 6 if given permission.

Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones and the Internet

If we are made aware that a mobile phone or device is being used inappropriately, incidents will be dealt with in line with other relevant policies (eg: Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, E-Safety, Child Protection, Child-on-Child Abuse) and parents/carers will be notified.

Examples of inappropriate use:

- Taking/using photos or videos – of staff, pupils or members of the school community - without consent
- Using mobile technology (eg: use of messaging apps and social media) to share inappropriate content, cause upset, threaten, intimidate

- Accessing inappropriate content online

Depending on the nature of the incident, school may need to inform external agencies – eg: Police, MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection).

Other Mobile Devices – eg: Smartwatches

Children are not permitted to wear any form of smart device (FitBit/Apple watch) during school hours. If a child wears such a device to school, teachers will collect the device, keep it safe until the end of the day and return it to the child to take home. If a device is worn repeatedly, the child's parents/carers will be asked to collect the device.

Monitoring and Review

The Mobile Phone and Device Policy for Pupils will be reviewed annually.