

SSSC Mobile Device Policy



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V1 – Mobile Device Policy		Mr Norman	9.12.21
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Revision	Date	Description of Changes

Signed: Mrs Karen Hudson Date:- 14th November 2023 Chair of Governors

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This policy provides clear guidance on the use of mobile devices in school by pupils.

Context:

SSSC operates in a world where young people have access from a very early age to powerful mobile devices. With these devices young people are able to listen to music, make telephone calls, text, video calls, access the internet and social media applications. As a school SSSC suggests that pupils keep their mobile phones and other devices at home. However, we are aware that some young people bring their phones into school and specific strategies have been put in place to allow a safe and healthy environment within the school hours.

As a school we need to educate our young people on the appropriate use of mobile devices, in conjunction with everyone's entitlement to privacy.

This policy sets out the school's framework for determining what is 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' use of mobile devices by students whilst they are at school. The purpose of this policy is to prevent unacceptable use of mobile phones, camera- phones and smart watches and thereby protect all members of the school community from undesirable materials, filming, intimidation or harassment. This policy also supports the learning and development of all students, due to the distractions that mobile devices can cause in school.

It is recognised that this policy must be reviewed and revised regularly in response to developments in technology.

Rationale:

At SSSC, we are aware that some students carry mobile devices for reasons of personal safety and practicality whilst travelling to and from school. However, this should be balanced against the possible dangers and problems that can arise from the inappropriate use of mobile devices in school such as:

- The impact on learning due to the continual distraction that they provide
- Bullying through digital messaging or other means
- Possession or transmission of inappropriate/unlawful images
- Filming of individuals without their permission
- General nuisance in the classroom and social areas
- Accessing inappropriate websites on the internet
- Theft/damage to or loss of phones and devices and the resultant loss of staff time due to investigations

We also want to encourage students to talk to each other and develop friendship groups at break and lunchtime as opposed to always using their mobile device.

The Policy:

- The open use of mobile devices is prohibited on entering the school premises, during lesson time, outside or during change over time including bus rooms.

- Mobile devices which are brought into school must be handed to the designated member of staff on a pupils way into school. They can then be collected on the way out at the end of the school day.
- No phones or devices should not be kept in a pupils' school bag during the school day.
- If a mobile phone is brought into school, it is entirely at the students' and parents'/carers' own risk. The School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of any phone, smart watch or other mobile device brought into school.
- Pupils will not be allowed to access social media sites within school premises.
- Pupils will not be allowed to send or receive texts.
- Pupils will not be allowed to connect their device to the school network/wi-fi system.
- Pupils will not be allowed to take record or take photographs of any other member of the school community.
- Any student caught filming another person (and/or uploading images or video onto the internet) will have their device confiscated. It will be treated as a disciplinary matter and their parents/carers will be informed. If the action is repeated, flagrant or of a serious nature, the matter will be treated as a serious disciplinary issue. In such circumstances, the pupil's parents/carers will be informed and the governing body and/or police may be notified.
- Where SSSC reasonably suspects a confiscated device may contain undesirable material, including those, which promote pornography, violence, or bullying the device may be forwarded to the police.
- Where parents/carers or pupils need to contact each other during the school day, they must do so only through the school's telephone system (via Reception) and not via pupil mobile phones. This includes when a student feels unwell. SSSC staff first aiders will contact parents/carers on behalf of the pupil.
- Should a pupil not follow the guidance highlighted within this policy then they may be prohibited from bringing their mobile device into school.

Exceptional Circumstances:

Pupils may be allowed to take their mobile device on an off-site activity, trip or residential. This will be assessed on an individual basis and will be the decision of the lead member of staff. Parents and pupils will always be informed in advance as to whether mobile devices will be permitted or not.

Stakeholder Responsibility:

- Pupils will accept the terms and conditions of the use of Mobile Devices within the school premises and actively learn about safety and privacy when doing so.
- SSSC will take responsibility for teaching young people to safely use their mobile devices through the IT and Computing curriculum.
- Parents and Carers will support this policy by accepting the sanctions for inappropriate use or making their own decision to not allow their child to take a mobile device into school.

