The Chandler CofE (Aided) Junior School

Policy Number CL-28

The Chandler C of E Junior School Mobile Phone Policy

Governors' Committee Responsible: Children and Learning

Nominated Lead Member of Staff: Hugh Rawson

Introduction and aims

At The Chandler, we aim to ensure that all members of our school community understand and follow clear expectations regarding the use of mobile phones and similar devices.

We are committed to being a **mobile phone-free environment during the school day**, in line with Department for Education guidance and best practice.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure the **safe, responsible and lawful use of mobile devices**
- Protect **pupils' wellbeing, behaviour and focus on learning**
- Reduce risks linked to:
    - internet access and age-inappropriate content
    - social media use
    - bullying and safeguarding concerns
- Provide clarity for **pupils, staff, parents and visitors**

Rationale

Mobile phones provide access to the full internet and social media platforms which primary-aged children are often **not developmentally ready to use safely or legally**.

We know that:

- Many children access platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat and others despite age restrictions
- Communication via phones can spill over into school, impacting friendships, behaviour and emotional wellbeing
- Mobile devices can distract from learning and play

For these reasons, we do **not encourage pupils to bring mobile phones or smartwatches to school**.

Use of mobile phones by pupils

General expectations

Pupils **must not use mobile phones or smartwatches at any time during the school day**

- This includes:
    - before school on the playground
    - lessons
    - break and lunchtime
    - trips (unless explicitly authorised)

Bringing devices to school

We recognise that in a small number of cases, pupils may need a phone for their journey to or from school.

Where this applies:

- Devices must be switched off before entering the school gates
- Devices must be handed to the class teacher immediately on arrival
- Devices will be stored securely during the day
- Devices will be returned at the end of the school day

Parents must complete a **permission form (or Arbor consent)** before a phone is brought to school.

Smartwatches

Smartwatches are included in this policy. This is because many:

- allow messaging or calls
- access the internet
- include cameras

They are treated in the same way as mobile phones and must also be **switched off and handed in**

Exceptions

Exceptions will only be made where there is a **clear safeguarding or medical need**, for example:

- pupils travelling independently
- medical monitoring devices linked to phones

These must be agreed in advance with the school.

Sanctions

If a pupil breaches this policy:

- The device will be confiscated immediately
- It will only be returned to a parent/carer
- The pupil will lose permission to bring a device to school in future

Further sanctions may be applied in line with the **school behaviour policy**.

Safeguarding and appropriate use
The school takes misuse of mobile technology extremely seriously.

Staff may take further action where there are concerns that a device:

- contains inappropriate content
- has been used to bully or harm others
- poses a safeguarding risk

In such cases, procedures will follow:

- **Keeping Children Safe in Education**
- **DfE guidance on searching and confiscation**

Use of mobile phones by staff
Staff must not:

- photograph pupils using personal devices
- share personal contact details with pupils or parents

Parents, visitors and volunteers
To support a safe environment:

- Mobile phones should not be used where pupils are present
- Photos must not be taken (except of own child at public events)
- No images should be shared on social media without consent

All visitors are expected to follow this policy while on site.

Loss, theft or damage

- The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to personal devices
- Confiscated devices will be stored securely
- Devices should be clearly labelled

Monitoring and review
This policy will be reviewed regularly, taking into account:

- DfE guidance
- feedback from staff, pupils and parents
- safeguarding and behaviour records

Appendix 1:

Pupil agreement

If I bring a phone or smartwatch to school, I agree that:

- I will switch it off before entering school
- I will hand it to my teacher
- I will not use it during the school day
- I understand it may be confiscated if I break the rules

Name…… Class……

Signed…….. Date ……..

Appendix 2: Permission process

Parents must confirm that:

- the phone is needed for travel or other agreed reason
- they understand the school rules
- they accept that devices may be confiscated if misused

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