



# **Buckstones Community Primary School**

## **Policy for Use of Mobile Phones**



**Written and agreed by staff: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. July 2024**

**Adopted by Governors: September 2024**

**Review: September 2027**

## **Rationale**

Mobile devices constitute a potential major problem because:

- Pupils phoning and texting each other disrupt learning and teaching
- Texting can be used to bully other children
- Mobiles with a photograph / video capability have been used in other schools to transmit unkind images of pupils and staff.
- Mobiles are normally detected when they go off – and therefore disrupt everyone before they are found
- They are a fashion item and the cause of much petty crime. The police warn that mobiles are a major cause of street crime
- They are a valuable item which can go missing in school – absorbing hours of staff time as they try to track down what happened.

As indicated above, we understand that mobile devices have become a convenience of daily life and parents may want to be able to contact their sons/ daughters who make their own way home from school. So we allow older pupils (Year 5 and 6) who travel home on their own to bring mobile devices to school as long as they abide by this policy.

## **Aims of our policy**

We aim to ensure that:

- a. Learning and teaching are not interrupted
- b. Pupils are safe
- c. Pupils can be contacted in school during the day without the use of mobile phones
- d. When it is necessary, pupils have the means to make emergency contact after school.

## **Our regulations about mobile devices**

1. Pupils must not use a mobile device anywhere in school during the school day.
2. Pupils must not photograph other pupils or staff without their explicit permission.
3. Parents wishing to contact their son / daughter during the school day should ring school. We have a well-established and efficient system for getting the messages to pupils.

4. Pupils who need to contact parents during the course of the school day should ask Mrs Moulton or Mrs Bonser to ring from the office.
5. Mobile devices in school are the pupils' responsibility. They should be switched off and then sent up to the office in the mobile phone box.
6. Pupils who need to use a mobile after school should do so in the school grounds and not on the main road, in line with police advice about mobiles being a major source of street crime.
7. If mobile devices are seen, heard or are used by pupils outside these rules they will be confiscated for **one week**. They will be kept in a sealed envelope in a locked cabinet and returned to the student at the end of the confiscation period. Parents are asked not to put the staff in an embarrassing situation by asking for phones to be returned when pupils have been in breach of school policy.
8. The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of mobile devices which have been brought onto school premises.
9. In light of concerns nationally about the uses to which images can be put, we ask all parents to be sensitive about taking photographs using mobile phones, cameras or video-recorders at school events. We may question anyone we do not recognise who is using a camera or video-recorder at schools events or productions.

## **Review**

The policy will be reviewed by the school and discussed with the Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body.

Reviewed and updated: September 2027