

Mobile Phone Statement

This statement outlines the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

Scope

This statement applies to all children enrolled at a REAch2 school. It does not apply to staff or visitors, who are expected to follow separate guidance on appropriate mobile phone use.

Statement

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used or carried by children before/after school or during the school day, including during lessons, break times and lunch periods in any REAch2 school or within the grounds of the school. This includes smartwatches and other connected devices with communication capabilities.

Rationale

- **Safeguarding:** Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.
- **Learning focus:** Phones are a distraction and can disrupt lessons and concentration.
- **Social development:** Encouraging face-to-face interaction supports emotional and social growth.
- **Equity:** Reduces pressure on families to provide expensive devices.

Implementation

Before and After School:

- Pre-agreements will be put in place for children who require their phones for parent/family handovers or high-level safety reasons. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the school's discretion.
- Children without pre-agreements are **not** permitted to bring their phone to school.

During School hours:

- Children are not permitted to use or access mobile phones.
- Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. *(Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case)*

Communication with Parents

- This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school.
- Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.
- **Parents are prohibited from using their phones while on the school site**, as this encourages positive interactions with the children during drop-off and collection.
- Parents who persist in not following this expectation will be banned from the school site.

Medical Exceptions

- We recognise that there are exceptional circumstances where access to a mobile device is necessary for health and safety reasons.
- Children with documented medical conditions that require the use of a mobile phone e.g. to monitor blood glucose levels, manage asthma, or communicate with healthcare providers, may be exempt from this policy. In such cases, parent or guardians should provide appropriate medical documentation and work with school staff to develop an agreed-upon plan.

Monitoring and Review

This statement will be reviewed every 2 years by the Trust's Head of IT and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, safeguarding guidance or Trust/school needs.