



Blessed Robert Widmerpool CVA

Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy

'Teach a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22: 6

Rationale

Mobile phones have revolutionised everyday life for almost everyone in the country in the past forty years. Mobile phones and smart technology open up an almost limitless resource filled with opportunity and benefits to our lives.

However, mobile phones are a contentious issue within school settings. Government guidance also states the following:

'Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones...Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion...We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school...By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices.'

As such, the government advises **prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school** and Blessed Robert Widmerpool CVA aligns to this policy. **The school also prohibits of the use of smart devices (including watches)**, due to their ability to function like a mobile phone in this modern age.

Please note that this policy is ratified by the Local governing Body, supported by the Trust and is linked to the Department for Education Behaviour in School document September 2022 as well as the 'Mobile Phones in School' Guidance from February 2024.

Policy and Procedure

- No student is permitted to show or use mobile phones and personal smart devices on the school site. **If a phone or smart device is used on the school grounds to show media, take photos/videos, send messages, make phone calls, surf the internet, play on apps or share content**, this will be seen as a breach of the policy.
- The school recognises that some students may need to carry a mobile phone/smart device on their way to the school but they **do not** need it with them during the academy day.

- Parents can contact the school in an emergency on the school office number – 0115 915 2392 and the school will use the emergency numbers parents have provided in order to reach them, should they need to.
- The only children permitted to carry a mobile phone to and from school are those children who have **permission to walk to and from school independently** (in the case of Blessed Robert Widmerpool CVA, this refers to **Year 6 pupils only, and Year 5 pupils in the second half of the summer term**).
- **Phones and smart devices should be turned off** before pupils enter the school grounds **and should be out of view**. This includes any Bluetooth, data roaming and wifi connections disabled.
- Any devices should be **clearly labelled** and once inside, pupils should **hand the device into their class teacher**.
- The devices will then be stored safely for the remainder of the day.
- At the end of the day, devices will be returned to pupils. **The pupils will be expected to place their device into their school bag/coat out of view. It should remain out of view until they are off the school premises.**

The school accepts no responsibility for the security of mobile phones/electronic devices or other items and valuables (jewellery, money etc) brought into school and not handed in.

Members of staff will not investigate missing phones, smart devices, electronic equipment, valuables.

Breaches to this Policy

If a pupil fails to hand the phone/electronic equipment in and it is used, it goes off or is seen by a member of staff, it will be confiscated and the student will be issued with an appropriate sanction in line with behaviour policy. Parents will be notified and parents themselves will need to collect their child's device. Please be aware that sanctions may escalate to suspension if the seriousness of the policy breach is deemed serious enough.

Due to the fact that mobile phones and other personal electronic devices are prohibited items during the school day, staff may search a student or their possessions without consent if it is reasonably believed that they have such items in their possession. This will be done in line with safeguarding policy.

If a student has a mobile phone/electronic device in their possession, it will be assumed that this is their property and this policy will be applied accordingly.

Exemptions

Should a student require the use of mobile phone technology to manage medical conditions e.g. Type 1 diabetes, Bluetooth hearing aids etc, this will be allowed. Devices, however, will be managed by their key workers in school. These arrangements are agreed between parties as appropriate in consultation with parents and the headteacher and SEND Coordinator during Medical Care Plan meetings.

Staff/Visitors

Blessed Robert Widmerpool CVA maintains high standards in safeguarding its pupils and staff. As such, all visitors and members of staff are expected to follow the policy below:

Use of mobile phones in our school.

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent while on the school grounds.
- Please avoid using your phone in any location where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the staffroom or one of the meeting rooms, if available.
- If you are waiting for an important phone call, please leave your device in the safe location of the school office. They will communicate with you when the phone call is being received. If it is a scheduled phone call, please ensure a suitable location in school to take that phone call.
- Do not have your device on view at any time.
- Do not take photos or videos of children on your device at any time.
- If you have any safeguarding concerns, please these to a Designated Safeguarding Leader or a member of reception.
- If you are a supply teacher, peripatetic teacher, guest speaker or volunteer, please refer to the information provided and ensure that the rules pertaining to children's use of mobile phones are strictly adhered to.

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

Actioned: May 2024

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