

EQUALS TRUST

The Equals Trust BJPS Policy Mobile Phone use for pupils



BJPS	
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Statutory or non-statutory:	Statutory
Author/Reviewer:	Natalie Pickard

Pupil Mobile Phone Policy

1. Rationale

At Burton Joyce Primary School, we recognise that some pupils may need to bring mobile phones to school for safety reasons, particularly when travelling independently. However, mobile phones present potential risks to safeguarding, wellbeing and behaviour.

This policy is designed to ensure that pupils are safe, protected and able to learn without disruption, in line with our safeguarding duties and our school values of PRIDE: Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Equality.

This policy operates in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and statutory guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, current version).

2. Aims

- To safeguard pupils from risks associated with mobile phone use
- To promote safe, responsible and respectful use of technology
- To prevent disruption to teaching and learning
- To ensure clear and consistent procedures for staff, pupils and parents

3. Bringing Mobile Phones to School

- Pupils are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school.
- Mobile phones may only be brought where there is a clear need (e.g. independent travel), with parental knowledge and consent for pupils in year 5/6 only.
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage.
- Smartwatches with communication or camera functions follow the same rules as mobile phones.

4. Storage and Security

- Phones must be switched off (not silent) before entering school premises and put away in the pupil's school bag.
- On arrival to the classroom, phones must be handed to the phone collection basket which is monitored by the class teacher, this is then handed to the school office.
- Devices will be stored securely during the school day.
- Phones will be returned at the end of the school day.
- Phones should only then be switched on once pupils have left the school site.

5. Use of Mobile Phones

Pupils are **not permitted to use mobile phones** at any time on school premises, including:

- Classrooms
- Corridors
- Toilets and changing areas
- Playground and outdoor spaces
- Before and after school clubs

Mobile phones must not be used to:

- Take photographs or videos
- Access social media, messaging or online content
- Contact parents/carers or others during the school day

6. Safeguarding and Child Protection (KCSIE)

Mobile phones can present significant safeguarding risks. These include:

- Exposure to inappropriate or harmful content
- Cyberbullying or peer-on-peer abuse
- Sharing or requesting images
- Contact with unknown or unsafe individuals
- Online grooming or exploitation

At Burton Joyce Primary School, all concerns relating to mobile phone use are managed in line with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, current version)
 - *Part 1*: Safeguarding information for all staff
 - *Part 2*: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
 - *Annex B*: Online safety and risks linked to technology
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children
 - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- KCSIE makes clear that safeguarding includes protecting children from harm, including risks arising from online environments and digital communication.

Response to Concerns

Any misuse of a mobile phone will be treated as a potential safeguarding concern where appropriate.

Staff will:

- Report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Record incidents in line with school procedures
- Not investigate beyond initial fact-finding

The DSL will:

- Assess the level of risk
- Decide on next steps, including:
 - Informing parents/carers
 - Monitoring or early help
 - Referral to external agencies (e.g. MASH, police)

Searching and Confiscation

In line with DfE guidance:

- Mobile phones may be **confiscated** if the policy is breached
- A device may be searched where there is **reasonable suspicion of harm or safeguarding risk**
- Searches will only be carried out by authorised staff

If concerning material is found:

- It will be **reported immediately to the DSL**
- Staff will not unnecessarily view, copy or share indecent images

7. Breaches of Policy

If a pupil breaches this policy:

- The phone will be **confiscated immediately**
- Returned only to a parent/carers or at the discretion of SLT
- Parents/carers will be informed

Repeated breaches may result in:

- A ban on bringing a mobile phone to school
 - Behaviour sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy
- Serious breaches (e.g. bullying, harmful content, inappropriate images) will be treated as safeguarding concerns.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Follow this policy at all times
- Use technology responsibly outside of school
- Report any concerns to a trusted adult

Parents/Carers

- Support and reinforce the school's policy
- Monitor children's mobile phone use at home
- Ensure phones brought to school are necessary

Staff

- Enforce the policy consistently
- Remain vigilant to safeguarding risks
- Report all concerns immediately to the DSL

Senior Leadership Team / DSL

- Ensure safeguarding procedures are followed
- Manage and record incidents
- Liaise with external agencies where required

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- In line with updates to KCSIE or safeguarding guidance
- Following any significant incident

10. Linked Policies

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy