



Dalmain Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

At Dalmain Primary School, we recognize the importance of digital technology in today's society. However, we also acknowledge the increasing concerns about the impact of smartphones on pupils' well-being and learning, particularly as they move into secondary education. We have therefore adopted a smartphone-free policy in school to encourage them to reduce their involvement with such devices outside school and to prepare them for secondary education where we hope similar policies will:

- Eliminate distractions from smartphones during school hours
- Promote safe and respectful interactions among pupils
- Protect pupils from exposure to inappropriate content and cyber-bullying

Other concerns have been raised nationally and within the local authority regarding the use of smartphones phones (and other devices) in educational settings.

These concerns are mainly based around the following issues:

- Staff being distracted from their work with children
- The use of smartphones around children
- The inappropriate use of smartphones

Ensuring the Safe and Appropriate use of Mobile Phones By Children

Dalmain is a smartphone free zone. Pupils should not bring in smartphones, or any other form of recording device (eg. smartwatches) to school. Any smartphone brought into school will be confiscated and can only be collected by a parent/carer. On collection, parents/carers will be asked to sign for the phone. If repeat offences occur, the smartphone may be confiscated and held until the end of term.

Children in Years 5 and 6 may bring 'brick' phones into school if it is essential to their personal safeguarding, eg. to communicate their arrival at school or return home to a parent or carer. These must be handed in to their class teacher at the start of the school day.

Ensuring the Safe and Appropriate use of mobile phones for Volunteers, Visitors and Contractors

Upon their initial visit volunteers and visitors are informed that we are a smartphone free zone school, and asked to turn off their device. If they wish to make an emergency call, they may use the phone in the main office. If it essential that they are able to receive messages and/or phone calls (family emergencies, urgent calls from outside agencies etc.) prior and specific permission must be given by the Headteacher. Volunteers or visitors are not permitted to take photographs or recordings of the children on their smartphones under any circumstances. Volunteers accompanying school trips must not use their mobile phones during the trip.

Ensuring the Safe and Appropriate use of mobile phones for Parents/Carers

Parents and carers should not be using smartphones on the school premises at any time. Staff will challenge anyone seen doing so and request that they put their phone away.

Exceptions to this rule are made for special events such as performances, concerts and Sports Day as the school appreciates that parents/carers may wish to keep memories of such occasions

However, parents and carers are reminded annually about the importance of not sharing photos or videos without permission, due to reasons of child protection (e.g. looked-after children often have restrictions for their own protection), data protection, religious or cultural reasons, or simply for reasons of personal privacy. Reminders are also given at the start of (and during, where necessary) such events. The school notes the guidance at parentfilming.lgfl.net.

Ensuring the Safe and Appropriate use of mobile phones By Staff

Dalmain Primary School recognises that staff may need to have access to mobile phones during the working day.

However, they must be locked in staff lockers, cupboards or drawers during the working day. Phones should always be on silent during working hours. **They can only be used in the staffroom or another private space, and only before or after school or during break times. They must never be used when children are present.** This policy also applies during lessons off-site, e.g. swimming, or a school trip.

Staff must never use personally owned devices such as mobile phones or cameras to take photos or videos of pupils. They must only use work-provided equipment for this purpose.

Please see the **Staff Code of Conduct** and the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** for full details of the school's expectation of staff in this regard.


Monitoring

All staff are expected to follow the procedures in this and other documents referred to. They are also expected to ensure that other stakeholders referred to in this policy adhere to the school's requirements.

Approval Level:	School
Signed by Headteacher (Erika Eisele):	<i>Erika Eisele</i>
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