

Sion Mills Primary School

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR MOBILE PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES



Signed: _____ (Chair of Board of
Governors)

_____ (Principal)

Date: _____

INTRODUCTION

Sion Mills PS recognises that pupils regularly use mobile phones and other electronic devices and that many parents wish their children to carry mobile phones to enhance their safety on journeys to and from school. We also recognise that some children bring gaming devices to Breakfast Club. Sion Mills PS aims to develop a culture of responsible use of mobile phones and other electronic devices by pupils.

Sion Mills PS further recognises that there are many benefits and learning opportunities to be gained from the use of technology such as mobile phones and electronic devices. However, the increasing technical sophistication of these telephones and electronic devices raises issues and challenges which the school management must address.

Research has shown that some pupils experience bullying through the use of text and picture messaging via mobile telephones and other electronic devices.

In order to develop a culture of responsible use the following steps are taken:

- There is an E-Safety policy;
- Expert speakers are invited to provide age appropriate presentations on internet safety;
- Support is sought from NSPCC and other agencies;
- Parental workshops are provided

GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS

Pupils are advised that mobile telephones and other electronic devices should not be brought to school as the school is not liable for the theft, loss or damage of these.

Pupils and parents are reminded that in cases of an emergency, the school office remains the appropriate point of contact.

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while on the school premises, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication at all times. We therefore ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is *courteous* and *appropriate* to the school environment.

Due to Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures all photos and/or videos may only be taken on a school camera or filming device.

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

Staff use of mobile phones and electronic devices during their working school day should be: outside of their contact time and not in the presence of pupils unless agreed with the Principal;

Mobile phones and electronic devices should be switched off and left in a safe place during lesson times. The school will not take responsibility for items that are lost or stolen;

Staff will not contact pupils or parents from their personal mobile phones, or give their mobile phone number to parents unless in special circumstances;

Staff will never send to, or accept from colleagues or pupils, texts or images that could be viewed as inappropriate;

With regards to camera mobile phones, a member of staff will never use their phone or personal electronic device to photograph a pupil(s).

This guidance should be read in conjunction with E-Safety and Internet Use section of the Sion Mills Child Protection policy.

SANCTIONS

Inappropriate use of mobile phones or other electronic devices will be regarded as a breach of discipline and dealt with according to staff grievance policy or Positive Behaviour Policy as appropriate.

Signed

Oonagh McNelis

Principal