

Mobile Technology Policy



Thorn Grove Primary School

Approved by Governing Body on: 26 September 2024

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Chair of Governors

Next review due by: September 2026

Introduction

- This sets out the School's framework for determining what is 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' use of mobile technology, by adults whilst on the school premises.
- The purpose is to prevent unacceptable use of devices by adults, and thereby to protect all members of the school community from lesson interruption, undesirable materials, photographs/filming without express permission, intimidation or harassment.

Note: For the purposes of this policy, all references to 'mobile devices' should be taken to include: mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, i-pads, kindles, ipods etc.

Statement

Mobile devices have become a common possession, and are increasingly complex and sophisticated. Many people view them as an essential part of modern life. There are however many issues that relate to mobile device use or possession, in school.

1. Adults may bring a mobile device to school with them on condition that the device is switched to silent and placed out of children's reach;
2. That if the mobile device needs to be used, it is used in an area away from children e.g. in an identified room such as the Blue Room or outside of the school building;
3. If the device is needed for an activity with children, the adult leading the activity needs to have the permission of a School Leader;
4. Where adults have permission to take photographs/videos using their own mobile devices, they must transfer the images to the school network and then delete them from their device;
5. When an adult is seen using a mobile device in an area used by children, they are asked to cease use or leave the school building;
6. Adults expected to comply with this statement when using their own mobile devices to take photographs/film of children, this includes at school events;
7. External providers who wish to use their mobile device whilst on the school site when children are in attendance, need to abide by this statement. Where an external provider wishes to take photographs/film of children, they need to provide their employers E- Safety Statement for the management of images in relation to GDPR compliance;
8. Regular reminders will be placed on the newsletter, as well as announcements made at the beginning of school events;
9. Any adult who refuses to comply with the direction above will be asked to leave the premises;

Taking Of Photos At School Events

As a school we feel that it is important that children and young people feel happy with their achievements and have photographs and films of their special moments. Family and friends also want to be able to share the successes of their children when they have been part of a special event or activity.

However, it's also important for us all to be aware of child protection and safeguarding issues when people are taking photos or filming at events. The potential for misuse of images can be reduced if there is a shared understanding of the potential risk factors.

We have always relied on the goodwill of our Parents/Carers to sensibly manage the taking of photos/videos at school events, where they seek to only take footage of their own child/ren and do not take films/videos of children on the school site.

The Independent Commissioner's Office is clear that where photographs or videos are taken of a child in school/at a school event and where the photo is for the 'family photo album', the photos are for personal use and do not fall under GDPR.

However, where a photo/video of a child is taken in school and then placed on social media, there is an increased risk factor both in relation to the safeguarding of the child and more widely in relation to GDPR, as the photo/video is no longer for personal use as it is being more widely shared.

We expect the following expectations to be implemented when parents/carers are taking photos/videos in school:

1. Parents/Carers do their best to only take photos/videos of their own children
2. Parents/Carers do not film/video school events without the school's permission
3. Photos/videos containing children other than your own should not be placed on social media
4. Any names of children, other than your own, should not be placed on social media

Review

This statement will be reviewed every 2 years, or when there is an issue arising from the use of mobile technology.

NB: This policy will operate in conjunction with other policies including the Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Usage Policy.