

Mobile and Smart Technology Policy

Date of Policy Creation	September 2024	Named Responsibility	Jo Colledge
Date of Review	September 2025	Named Responsibility	Jo Colledge
Date of Policy Review by Governors			

Introduction and Aims

At Ingleton Primary School, the welfare and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Safe use of Technology Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones and other devices that cause the most concern, offering distractions and disruption to the working day, and which are the most susceptible to misuse – including the taking and distributing of indecent images, exploitation and bullying.

This policy refers to all mobile communication and other technology/electronic devices such as personal iPads and electronic watches.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal technology on site. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, children, parents, visitors and contractors.

The policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Staff Handbooks
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Online Safety policy

Statutory Regulation

The Early Years Safeguarding and Welfare requirements (section 3) require all schools to have a clear policy on the use of personal mobile phones and devices. This policy applies to all year groups, including EYFS.

Code of conduct

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other, thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity. Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- know how to minimise risk.
- avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.
- understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.
- are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly.

It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

Personal Devices – staff

- Staff in all year groups must have their phones switched off or to silent, and they must be kept out of the classroom (in a cupboard or in a bag which is put away).
- Staff are NOT permitted to make / receive calls / texts during contact time with children. Any necessary contact should be made via the school office
- Mobile phones or any other personal technology must not be used in a space where children are present – this includes phones, digital watches where messages can be made and iPads.
- Use of technology should be limited to non-contact times with children and in an area where no children are present.
- It is advised that staff protect their mobile phones with security features.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances when a phone is needed during contact time, the Headteacher should be consulted and a decision will be made. The school phone number can be given out by staff for emergency use – for example to the school or a staff member's child.
- Staff are not permitted to use recording equipment on their personal devices for photographic or video footage. School equipment must be used.
- Staff should report inappropriate usage to the Headteacher.

Mobile phones for work related purposes

We recognise that on occasions, a mobile phone may be used for off-site activities, as an appropriate method of communication. Staff should ensure that:

- Mobile phone use is appropriate and professional.
- Mobile phones should not be used to contact parents – this should be done through the school office unless it is deemed an emergency or exceptional circumstances.
- Where parents are accompanying children on trips, they must be informed that it should not be used to inform other parents or take photographs.
- Photographs are taken on the school mobile, on tablets or cameras.

Personal Devices – Pupils

We realise that mobile phones have become an important part of everyday life for many children and that they can be a method of keeping them safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove to be a distraction in school and can be a means of bullying or intimidating others.

Therefore:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones or any other devices at school.
- Mobile phones brought in will be confiscated and will need to be collected by an adult.
- Mobile phones are not allowed on trips or residential visits.
- Fitness trackers such as Fitbits or similar step devices will be permitted but must not distract through the school day. This will be reviewed regularly.
- Smart/Electronic watches such as Apple Watches or devices that can be used as phones/cameras are not permitted.

Where technology is used on or off site to bully or intimidate others, the Headteacher does have the power to intervene ‘to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site’.

Volunteers, visitors, Governors and Contractors

All visitors, volunteers, governors and contractors are expected to follow our policy whilst on the premises. This is outlined in our Visitor and Safeguarding Information booklet, which is shared on arrival at school. Phones must be turned off and put away. They should not be out in front of pupils unless permission has been given by the headteacher.

Parents

Parents working on a voluntary basis in school would be expected to follow our policy whilst on site. We would ask parents on site to ensure that their use of mobile phones is courteous and appropriate to the school environment. We allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using mobile phones – but insist that parents do not publish any images (including on any social media sites) that include children other than their own. Parents should not use mobile phones when in any classrooms for events or when in the school hall for any planned class events. Anyone who is found using a mobile phone or taking photographs in a way that contravenes this policy may have their parental license to enter school revoked.

Dissemination

This policy will be shared with staff, external providers and volunteers on induction. It will be available to parents on the school website.