



Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy

Founded in pupils' rights and the school's aims and values

Gelliswick Mission Statement	Children's rights
<p>At Gelliswick we are privileged to be part of a learning community that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> values everyone, Provides hope, and contributes together, <p>to make every child's future better than they thought possible.</p>	<p>Article 2: non-discrimination & Article 3: best interests of the child Article 12: respect for the views of the child Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect Article 24: health and health services Article 28: right to education & Article 29: goals of education Article 31: leisure, play and culture Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration Article 40: juvenile justice</p>
Gelliswick aims and values	
<p>We aim that all children and young people will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives. Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work. Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world. Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. Safe, will know their rights and will be listened to. <p>That our school, working with the community, provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe, nurturing and inclusive environment that promotes Christian values and positive wellbeing. Authentic, exciting and inspiring learning experiences through which children acquire the values, skills and knowledge to be healthy, responsible and successful. A dynamic culture of enquiry, collaboration, innovation and exploration for all members of the school community. An expectation that we strive to do the best that we can, and to achieve more than we thought possible. 	

Review Schedule

Agreed as policy			
	Name	Signature	Date
Governing Body	Yvonne Southwell (CoG)		03.07.2024
Head teacher	Nick Dyer		03.07.2024
Review of Policy			
	Date for review	People responsible	
	July 2025	Wellbeing sub-committee Head teacher	

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INTRODUCTION

Gelliswick School recognises the ubiquitous presence of mobile phones and devices presents significant challenges to how pupils behave and learn in school settings. Increasingly, there is mounting evidence suggesting that the unchecked use of mobile phones and smart devices in schools is having a detrimental impact on pupils' mental health and academic progress, while also draining the energy of school staff who must manage resulting problems. These detrimental impacts have been highlighted by organisations such as PISA, UNESCO, and Estyn.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

By limiting the use of mobile phones in school, the policy aims to help establish a calm, safe, and supportive learning environment conducive to teaching and keeping children safe. It complements the school's safeguarding, bullying and behaviour policies.

It is intended that the policy will contribute to:

- Reducing distractions in lessons
- Reducing staff time spent on mobile-related matters
- Improving academic performance
- Enhancing social interactions between students
- Tackling cyberbullying
- Promoting students' health and well-being
- Strengthening students' resilience
- Preventing security/safeguarding concerns related to video recordings
- Preventing cheating
- Supporting equality

This policy employs the general term "mobile phones" to encompass a range of smart devices that pupils might bring to school, which could include smartwatches, tablets, music players, and gaming consoles.

POLICY OUTLINE

Although not an exhaustive list, devices covered by this policy include:

- Mobile phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets (e.g., iPads, Android tablets)
- Laptops with cellular connectivity
- Portable gaming consoles with internet connectivity (e.g., Nintendo Switch, PlayStation Vita),
- Smart eyewear or VR devices
- Fitness trackers with messaging capabilities
- Portable media players with internet access (e.g., iPod Touch)
- E-readers with internet connectivity (e.g., Kindle Fire)
- Portable GPS devices with internet connectivity.

Parent, Visitors or Volunteers in School Policy

Adults either in school or accompanying children on school trips should not use their cameras or mobile phone cameras to take pictures of pupils unless it is at a public event such as Sports day or Summer fair and of their own children.

Adults, visitors or volunteers in school should only use their mobile phone within the confines of the school office or staff room. Personal cameras and mobile phone cameras should not be used to take pictures of children. If parents who accompany children on a school trip are asked by the teacher to take photos as a record of the educational visit, they will be issued with a school camera. Parents accompanying children on school trips should not use their mobile cameras to take pictures of children.

Pupil Policy

- Pupils are discouraged to bring mobile phones to school
- Pupils who have permission to walk unsupervised by an adult to and from school may bring mobile phones to school which are switched off and placed in storage

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school if they walk to and from school without adult supervision, Gelliswick VC School discourages pupils bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential issues raised above.

When a child needs to bring a phone into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent and the phone must be placed in the storage container on entry to either breakfast club, or to the classroom.

In breakfast club: the storage container will be secured in the hall cupboard and the cupboard will be locked at all times when not directly supervised by a member of staff. Devices will be collected by the child and taken to the class and then placed again in the storage container.

In class: the storage container will be locked in the year 5/6 cupboard and this cupboard shall be locked at all times when not directly supervised by a member of staff. Devices will be collected at the end of the day by the pupil.

Phones should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own phone.

The school accepts no liability or responsibility for mobile phones or related devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen on school premises, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.

EXCEPTIONS

Only pupils who have written permission from their parents/carers are entitled to bring mobile phones to school. Parents/carers are guided to only request permission for pupils who walk to and from school without an adult. This is only available to pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. When this exception is permitted, the pupil's mobile phone will be kept in storage for the school day and returned when the pupil leaves school. Parents/carers will need to complete a permission slip (Appendix A) to allow for this exception.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the school will take reasonable steps to prevent substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by this policy. The school will make exceptions for pupils who require mobile devices for accessibility purposes in accordance with equality guidelines or for medical-related conditions. The usage of these devices will be limited to meeting the specific requirements of their condition, and will include a written agreement with the parent, through a plan such as a healthcare plan or a pastoral support plan. Flexibility for pupils does not automatically exempt them from all restrictions on mobile phone use, and this should be clear in any written plan.

BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

In instances of policy breaches, confiscated phones or other covered devices will be logged and securely stored until the end of the day. Depending on the severity or recurrence of breaches, devices may be retained for extended periods, and parents or carers may be asked to collect them from the school.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, or is known to have used a phone during the school day, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a permission slip be returned the next day. If this practice continues more than three times, then the school will confiscate the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from a senior teacher.

Refusal by a pupil to hand over a phone to staff members will result in a follow-up sanction consistent with the school's behaviour policy. If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to our Behaviour policy.

If images of other pupils or teacher have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of the FLO (Family liaison officer) or member of the SLT. (Please see more guidance on sexting in our child protection policy).

Should a pupil be found to be using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring a phone into school.

REVIEWING THE POLICY

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and members of the school community.

This policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Online Safety policies. This policy will be monitored and reviewed, and revised as required, annually.

Reference Documents and Useful Links:

- *Pembrokeshire County Council Schools Mobile Phones Policy Guidance*
Add link when on website
- *Rights, respect, equality: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools, Welsh Government, 2019*
<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/rights-respect-equality-statutory-guidance-for-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools.pdf>
- *Wales Safeguarding Procedures*
http://www.myguideapps.com/projects/wales_safeguarding_procedures/default/
- *Safeguarding Children, Welsh Government*
<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=pupil%20referral%20units-,Safeguarding%20children,-Includes%20keeping%20learners>
- *School behaviour and discipline, Welsh Government*
<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=School%20behaviour%20and%20discipline>
- *School Bullying, Welsh Government*
<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=with%20school%20exclusions-,School%20bullying,-Includes%20guidance%20to>
- *Technology in Education: On Whose Terms?, UNESCO, 2023*
<https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/technology>
- *We Don't Tell Our Teachers, Estyn, 2022*
<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/document-page/21018/contents/document-details/main-findings>

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – Permission Slip and Waiver



PERMISSION FORM AND WAIVER ALLOWING A PUPIL TO BRING THEIR MOBILE PHONE OR SMART DEVICE TO SCHOOL

Pupil name:

Year group/class:

Parents/Carers name:

The school has agreed to allow the pupil named above to bring their mobile phone to school as they:

- are in Year 4, 5 or 6 and travel to and from school unsupervised by an adult
- or, they meet the criteria for an exemption under paragraph two of the Exceptions section in the policy

By signing this agreement, I agree to abide by the school's policy on the use of mobile phones and its acceptable use agreement. I agree that my child will leave their device in the storage container when entering the school site and collect it after leaving the site at the end of the day. The phone/device shall be turned off and clearly labelled. The school reserves the right to revoke permission if pupils do not abide by the policy.

I, [Parent/Guardian Named above] hereby acknowledge and agree that Gelliswick Church in Wales VC Primary School shall not be held responsible for any phones or electronic devices brought to school by pupils, including but not limited to loss, damage, or theft that may occur on school premises, during school activities, or while pupils are travelling to and from school. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure the safekeeping of my child's phone/device and that I release Gelliswick Church in Wales VC Primary School from any liability in connection with such items. By signing this waiver, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agreed to the terms outlined herein.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

School authorisation (senior leader): _____ Date: _____