



Ashcorn Integrated Primary School

Acceptable Mobile Phone Usage

Mobile phones are enjoyed by a number of children. Information and Communications Technology is changing the way we go about our normal lives.

We accept that mobiles are going to become an increasingly common convenience, and that there may be times when it is important for your child to have access to their phone when they leave the school grounds.

However, we ask that phones are not brought to school unless there are particular circumstances in which they are needed after school hours.

If your child needs to have their phone with them on a particular day, please contact the Principal in advance to make arrangements.

Mobile Phones – Policy

Mobile phones are small high-value items and we take no responsibility for loss or damage on the premises. If confiscated it is the responsibility of the child to collect the phone at the end of the school day.

If a mobile phone has to come in to school, please ensure that:

1. The phone remains out of sight, if seen or heard by a teacher it will be removed and sent to the office and the child's parent/guardian contacted.
2. It is switched off during the school day.
3. If it is considered that a child is creating a nuisance with their phone in school, they will be told not to bring their phone into school again.

Any urgent messages can be passed on by the office on our main school telephone number.

Phones are **NEVER** to be used to photograph children in school or on school activities by either staff or other pupils. We do not have permission for all children to be photographed.

Separate arrangements will be in place for school discos and residentials.

We have an anti-bullying policy and the use of a mobile or other IT services to upset others will be dealt with within the policy. If any inappropriate use occurs this will be regarded as a serious offence and will be dealt with in line with the discipline policy.

It is a criminal offence to menace/harass/offend another person and the Principal or Senior Management Team may consider it appropriate to refer to the PSNI.

If a situation occurs where a video, photograph or any type of audio recording happens or is believed to have happened, the phone will be removed immediately, parents informed and the device will not be returned until the end of the day or as advised by the PSNI/CPSS. The device can only be collected by a parent/guardian. When a case like this happens the child will be given a one day internal exclusion.

If photos/video are believed to be have been taken on the phone, the staff should not view the images but contact the CPSS (Child Protection Services at the Education Authority) for advice. If advised to do so the parents and the PSNI will be contacted. *CPSS are always to be contacted for advice in these circumstances.*

Reviewed March 2020