



MOBILE PHONE & OTHER DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY

Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction

The use of mobile phones at Moneymore Primary School follows the guidance and direction given by Education Support for Northern Ireland which takes recommendations from the EA.

Guidance

- While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school, Moneymore Primary School **does not advocate** that pupils should bring mobile phones to school.
- In exceptional circumstances (e.g. pupil going to a different location than normal after school) we acknowledge that a pupil may bring a mobile phone to school. In such cases that school should be informed by the parent that their child has a phone at school and the phone must be handed to a member of staff on arrival at school, remain switched off while pupils are in school and should be collected at the end of the school day.
- Exceptions to this would be in an emergency situation and with the express approval of a senior member of school staff or where a written request has been received from the parent/carer (e.g. for medical purposes such as diabetes management).
- Should parents need to contact pupils, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office. (tel no. 028 86748362).
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be taken from the pupil, handed to a senior member of staff who will record the name of the child and attach to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by that teacher. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day.
- 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 the school's Pastoral Care Procedures.
- If images of other pupils or teachers 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 a teacher.
- Parents are advised that MPS accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into the school or school grounds.
- Please talk to your child about who is entitled to use his/her mobile number, as text messages are often used to bully pupils.

This policy supports the school's Health and Safety, Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Internet Acceptable Use policies. It has been endorsed by the Board of Governors and will be monitored, reviewed and amended as required.

Reviewed Jan 2023