

LEYS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils in School Policy 2021

Use of mobile phones (particularly due to increasingly sophisticated smart phones) presents a number of problems, including:

1. Mobile phones can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft;
2. Mobile phones (and their cost and level of sophistication - or otherwise) can make pupils objects of envy or disparagement and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying;
3. Even when apparently silent, the use of mobiles phones for texting purposes could be potentially undermining of classroom discipline and distract the pupils learning;
4. Use of the smart phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

The Governors accept that it is not regarded as realistic to have a policy which **completely** prohibits pupils from taking phones to school.

Use and possession of mobile phones by pupils

1. Mobile phones should not be brought to school. Our school advises all parents to discourage all pupils from bringing mobile phones to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.
2. However, we appreciate that **older children in Year 6** may walk to and from school and parents may wish their child to have a phone **in exceptional circumstances**.

If, in these circumstances, a pupil needs to bring a mobile phone to school, parents must make a request **in writing** to the headteacher, at least 5 days in advance, giving the reasons. These requests will be granted only in exceptional cases and emergencies. The mobile phone must be labelled with the child's name and switched off. **The headteacher's decision is final.**

Requests will not be considered for pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5.

If permission is granted the phone must be turned off and given to the duty Teaching Assistant in the playground on arrival who will store the phone in the school office until the end of the school day.

The school will accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any mobile phones brought on to the school premises at any time.

3. Where a school pupil (from any year group) is found by a member of staff to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone the phone will be taken from the child and stored in the office. The child may have the phone returned to them at the end of the day. If this is a persistent problem with a Year 6 pupil (who may have been given permission as above) the parent/carer will be informed and the child will be told not to bring the phone into school. Similar action will be taken if the phone is used inappropriately or with malicious intent.

This policy is designed to ensure our pupils are safe on their journey to school.

Reviewed: January 2021