



Our Lady's
Catholic Primary School

Pupils' Personal Electronic Devices Policy

Signed by:

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Date: 11/3/24

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Date: 11/3/26

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Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person." Pope Francis

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Vision

For our children to fulfil their unique human potential, follow the Gospel values by loving, learning, and reaching out to all. At Our Lady's our curriculum is designed to be rich, ambitious, and challenging; one that is broad, balanced, and relevant, fostering curiosity, creativity and a life-long love of learning for all children. For our children to be aspirational and well prepared for each stage of education, employment or training and enable them, as educated citizens, to contribute to creating a better world. For our children to have a sound understanding of their heritage and have open hearts and minds to the diversity in their immediate community and the world beyond. For our children to be healthy in body and in mind. To give children, who would otherwise not, the opportunity to participate in a range of sports and healthy activities. For our children to appreciate experience and engage with all forms of the arts. For children to develop the skills within music, design technology and art to enable them to access a world of possibilities that music and art can offer them both now and later in their lives.

Statement of intent

Mobile phones, tablets and other personal electronic devices have become widely available and accessible to pupils.

Our Lady's accepts that personal mobile phones and tablets are often given to pupils by their parents to ensure their safety and personal security but understands that such devices pose inherent risks and may jeopardise the learning environment.

As a school, we must strike a balance between personal safety and a suitable educational setting. We understand that parents may wish for their child to carry a mobile phone for their personal safety. This policy establishes how personal electronic devices should be used by pupils in school to ensure both personal safety and an appropriate learning environment.

Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to the following items:

- Mobile phones
- Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Handheld entertainment systems, e.g. video game consoles, iPods
- Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, laptops

- Wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems, e.g. devices used for word processing, wireless internet access, image capture and/or recording, sound recording, and information transmitting, receiving and/or storing

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2024) 'Mobile phones in schools'
- DfE (2024) 'Behaviour in Schools'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'.
- DfE (2023) 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school'.
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- DfE (2014) 'Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- The implementation of the policy and procedures.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that the policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds.
- Reviewing the policy **annually**.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- The day-to-day implementation and management of the policy.
- Informing parents and pupils of the Personal Electronic Devices Agreement.
- Communicating this policy to the relevant staff members and the wider school community.

- Communicating what devices can be brought to school and when they can and cannot be used.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Negotiating incidents of cyberbullying in conjunction with the headteacher, in line with the Anti-bullying Policy and the Behaviour Policy.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Initiating and managing responses to incidents of upskirting with relevant staff members and in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Liaising with and reporting the relevant information to children's social care and/or the police when it is necessary to do so.

Pupils are responsible for adhering to the provisions outlined in this policy.

3. Ownership and responsibility

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing property that is lost, stolen or damaged either on school premises or travelling to and from school, and at school events.

Staff will be protected against liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to personal devices that have been confiscated as an appropriate sanction, provided that they have acted lawfully.

Pupils and staff should enable a personal PIN or passcode on all the devices they bring to school to protect their personal data, images and videos in the event that the device is lost, stolen or accessed by an unauthorised person.

4. Acceptable use

Pupils bringing personal electronic devices into school must make their parents aware of this.

Personal electronic devices will be switched off and kept in the school office during lesson time.

5. Unacceptable use

Personal electronic devices will not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school. Unless express permission is granted by a member of staff, mobile devices will not be used to perform any of the following activities whilst on school grounds:

- Make phone or video calls
- Send text messages, WhatsApp messages, iMessages or emails

- Access social media
- Play games
- Watch videos
- Take photographs or videos

Pupils will not be permitted to use their mobile phones throughout the course of the school day – this will include in between lessons and during break and lunchtimes. The school will, however, consider the risks that may be posed to pupils who do not have access to their mobile phone, e.g. when organising travel home at the end of the school day.

Staff members will also not be permitted to use their mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.

Staff and pupils will adhere to the Social Media Policy at all times.

Files will not be sent between mobile devices, and Bluetooth and Wi-Fi functions will be disabled while on school premises. Staff may not join the school's Wi-Fi network on any personal device.

Personal electronic devices will not be plugged into outlets on the school premises without the express permission of the headteacher, and they will have an up-to-date portable appliance test (PAT).

Under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, the act known as “upskirting” is an offence. Any incidents will not be tolerated by the school. Despite the name, anyone (including both pupils and teachers) of any gender, can be a victim of upskirting.

A “specified purpose” is namely:

- Obtaining sexual gratification (either for themselves or for the person they are enabling to view the victim's genitals, buttocks or underwear)
- To humiliate, distress or alarm the victim

Any incidents of upskirting will be reported to the DSL and handled in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

6. Cyberbullying

All personal electronic devices will be used in line with our Online Safety Policy.

Incidents of cyberbullying will be dealt with and reported in line with the Anti-bullying Policy and the Behaviour Policy.

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to the prevention of cyberbullying, regular teaching and discussion about online safety will take place as the first topic in the Computing Curriculum for every year group. It is also addressed throughout the year as part of PSHE lessons.

7. Searching pupils

School pupils have a right for their private life to be respected under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). This right is not absolute, and the school can interfere with this right as long as it is justified, proportionate, and aligns with the powers to search in the Education Act 1996.

All searches will be conducted in line with the school's Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy.

The headteacher, and other authorised staff members, will have the power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Mobile phones and similar devices will be deemed as prohibited items that may be searched for in line with the Behaviour Policy.

In all cases the authorised member of staff will always:

- Seek the co-operation of the pupil before conducting a search.
- Ensure the pupil understands the reason for the search and how it will be conducted.
- Give the pupil the opportunity to ask any questions so that their agreement is informed.
- Have due regard to the DfE's 'Searching, screening and confiscation' guidance.

Staff may search a pupil's outer clothing, pockets or possessions. Staff conducting a search must not require the pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing - outer clothing means any item of clothing that is not worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear and includes hats, shoes, boots or scarves. Possessions means any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control - this includes bags.

A staff member may ask a pupil to show them what they are doing on their mobile phone or tablet if they reasonably believe that the pupil is using the device to cause harm. If it is judged reasonable, the staff member may inspect the files or data on a pupil's electronic device and delete them if necessary.

Staff members will ensure they have a good reason to examine and delete data on a pupil's electronic device. When determining a good reason to examine data, staff members will ensure they reasonably suspect that the data has been, or could be, used to cause harm, undermine the safe environment of the school and disrupt teaching, or be used to commit an offence.

When determining a good reason to delete data, staff members will consider whether the material found may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence and if so, choose not to delete the data. The data may be deleted if it is found likely to cause harm to any person, and the pupil and/or parent refuses to delete the data themselves.

If a search uncovers a device that is being used to cause harm, or which contains prohibited material such as pornography, a staff member can confiscate the device. If a staff member finds child pornography, it must be given to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. Where staff find stolen items like mobile devices, they must be given to the police as soon as reasonably practicable.

The staff member conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil being searched. A witness to the search must be present; this should also be a staff member of the same sex as the pupil being searched.

Pupils are required to comply with any request to check their electronic device.

Pupils are required to comply with any request to disable the screen lock function of their electronic device and show any staff member what they are doing. Any pupil who refuses to comply with these requests will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

8. Accessing and storing data

Downloading and accessing inappropriate websites and data on school-owned electronic devices is strictly prohibited.

Storing and using the personal data of any pupil or member of staff for non-work-related activity is strictly prohibited.

All data access requests will be handled in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.

9. Sanctions

Using a personal electronic device is a privilege which can be revoked at any time. Any pupil caught acting in a manner that contradicts this policy will have their personal electronic device confiscated until the end of the day.

Confiscated personal electronic devices will be locked away securely in the headteacher's office. Confiscated personal electronic devices will be collected by the pupil's parent.

Bullying via personal electronic devices will be dealt with in line with the school's Anti-bullying Policy.

10. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed **annually** by the headteacher and DSL.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to members of staff, parents and pupils by the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **March 2025**

Personal electronic devices agreement

Pupil personal electronic devices agreement

I, _____, understand that bringing a personal electronic device to school is a privilege that may be taken away if I abuse it. I agree to abide by the policy and understand the consequences if I fail to do so.

Signed by

Pupil		Date	
Parent		Date	

Parent personal electronic devices agreement

I, _____, recognise that Our Lady's bears no responsibility for personal electronic devices lost, damaged or stolen on school property or on journeys to and from school. I agree to the terms of this policy and will discuss the responsibility of owning a personal electronic device with my child (name) _____. I understand that a teacher may confiscate devices used in an unacceptable manner as detailed in the policy.

Signed by

Parent		Date	
Office		Date	