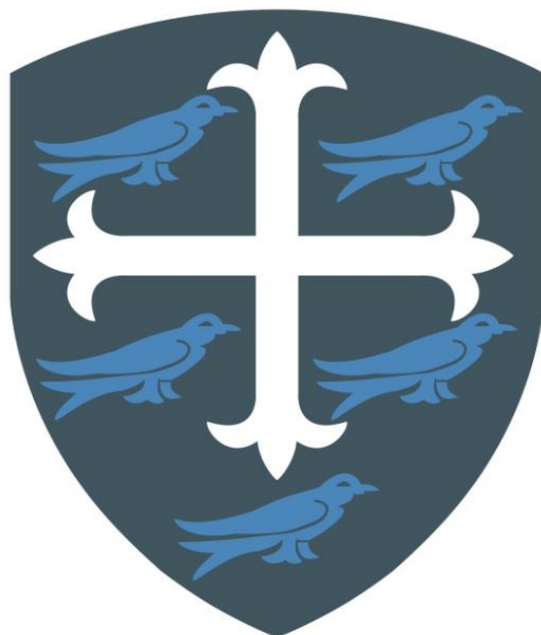


# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



## Mobile Phone Policy 2023-2025

<b>Legal Status:</b>	Non-Statutory
<b>Last Review:</b>	September 2021
<b>Review date:</b>	September 2023
<b>Next Review:</b>	September 2025
<b>Responsible Person:</b>	Head of School

### **Mission Statement**

"The family of St Mary's strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person."

**Signed by Head of School:**

**Introduction:**

Our takes into account the potential of modern technology which allows us to make phone calls, send text messages, take photographs and access the internet. The policy reflects national concern over the role of mobile phones in bullying and child abuse issues.

As a result, we have decided that there is no justification for having a mobile phone in school. Therefore, mobile phones are banned from the school premises at all times, for all pupils.

**Rationale:**

The main reasons for banning pupil's having mobile phones in school are as follows:

- Bullying – Mobile phones can be used to bully other children
- Inappropriate Use – Mobiles have been used in other schools to transmit inappropriate or unauthorised images of pupils and/or staff
- Disruption – Using mobile phones within school time may disrupt learning and teaching
- Crime – Mobiles are the cause of much crime and, being a valuable item, can go missing in school
- Health Risks – There is a lot of research which suggests that mobile phones are not suitable for children

**Aims and Objectives:****Bullying and Inappropriate Use:**

The purpose of this policy is mainly to prevent unacceptable use of mobile phones including camera phones by pupils, and thereby to protect the School's staff and pupils from undesirable materials, filming, intimidation or harassment.

Nearly all phones now have a camera facility. These phones may enable pupils to make still images of each other and send them to other phones, or post them on the internet. Sometimes these can be candid images that have been taken without the consent, or even knowledge of the subjects, with malicious intent.

This is something that we will not tolerate and in order to ensure this never happens at our school, this policy must be adhered to.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

All staff are responsible for enforcing this policy.

**Crime:**

We realise for those pupils that travel to and from school on their own, having a mobile phone may be seen as beneficial for that child's safety.

However, mobile phones are one of the main causes of muggings of under 16's, so they are far from being helpful to our children's safety. Therefore we do not want to encourage any possibility of compromising our pupil's safety on their way to and from school, due to mobile phones.

Police advice is not to allow mobiles in school, and to discourage the use of mobiles on that journey to and from school.

Parents may leave any important messages with the school office staff and they will be passed on accordingly.

**Sanctions:**

If a child is found in possession on a mobile phone, the phone will be immediately confiscated and locked away in the school office. The parent or carer is expected to contact the school to make an appointment to collect the phone.

Taking pictures/videos on mobile phones in school, without permission is contravening the Data Protection Act of 2018. In any case where a mobile phone is used to record sound, pictures or video images which are deemed to be an invasion of privacy the school will reserve the right to apply an appropriate sanction which could include exclusion from school and, in extreme cases, permanent exclusion. Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

**Conclusion:**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School reserves the right to protect its pupils and staff and holds the safeguarding of all pupils with the upmost regard. Therefore, pupil mobile phones are strictly banned and should not be used on the way to and from school.