

Killen Primary School



Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones and Related Technologies Policy

February 2024

Signed: L Sproule Chair, Board of Governors

Signed: C Goan Principal

Date: February 2024

Next Review date: 2027

Killen Primary School February 2024

RATIONALE

Killen Primary School accepts that some parents/guardians give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Killen Primary School therefore has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Related Technologies (smart watches). The policy provides teachers, pupils, parents/guardians with guidelines and instructions for their appropriate use during school hours.

This policy also applies to students during school excursions and extra-curricular activities.

- Killen Primary School strongly discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school.
- The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or such devices. These are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- If pupils bring mobile phones to school, the device must be switched off and given to the class teacher to keep in a drawer at their desk until the end of the school day. We have no secure facility to store these items, so the school takes no responsibility for loss or damage.
- Should parents need to contact pupils during the school day, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone during the school day, the phone may be taken from the pupil and handed to the child's teacher. The mobile phone will be stored in the school office until the end of the day. The pupil must arrange for their parents/guardians to collect confiscated equipment from the School Office during normal working hours.
- Phones must NEVER be used to photograph other children within the school. There may be children in school whose parents have opted for 'no photographs' in the consent forms.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone inappropriately (e.g. Phone calls on the school premises, to send inappropriate texts or to send inappropriate photographs/video footage of either pupils or teachers), this will be regarded as a serious offence and the Principal will decide on appropriate disciplinary action in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.

- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The Principal may consider it appropriate to refer any such matter to the PSNI.
- If images (photographic or video) of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the pupil, in the presence of a member of staff or the child's parent/guardian has removed the images. A member of school staff will always contact a parent/guardian before asking a child to delete material from their mobile phone.
- A member of school staff will contact parents/guardians in all cases where inappropriate photographs /video/audio footage has been found.
- Repeated breaches of the policy may result in loss of privileges, for example loss of break/dinner play time

RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

- The procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of related technologies with similar capabilities, for example smart watches e.g. messaging, recording (audio & video), photography etc.

EXEMPTIONS

- Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances. Pupils may be allowed to use these technologies under the specific guidance of their teacher on a specific day, e.g. the last day of term.

CONCLUSION

- This policy will be reviewed in 2024 or amended in advance of this timescale as appropriate in line with appropriate guidance/legislation.