



Mobile Phone Statement

This statement outlines the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

Scope

This statement applies to all children enrolled at a REAch2 school. It does not apply to staff or visitors, who are expected to follow separate guidance on appropriate mobile phone use.

Statement

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used or carried by children before/after school or during the school day, including during lessons, break times and lunch periods in any REAch2 school or within the grounds of the school. This includes smartwatches and other connected devices with communication capabilities.

Rationale

- Safeguarding: Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.
- Learning focus: Phones are a distraction and can disrupt lessons and concentration.
- Social development: Encouraging face-to-face interaction support emotional and social growth.
- Equity: Reduces pressure on families to provide expensive devices.

Implementation

Before and After School:

- Children who need a phone for safety reasons (e.g. walking home alone), must hand their mobile phone to their classteacher upon arrival and collect it at the end of the day.
- Phones must be switched off and stored securely by staff during school hours.

During School hours:

- Children are not permitted to use or access mobile phones.
- Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. *(Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case)*

Communication with Parents

- This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school.
- Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.

Medical Exceptions

- We recognise that there are exceptional circumstances where access to a mobile device is necessary for health and safety reasons.
- Children with documented medical conditions that require the use of a mobile phone e.g. to monitor blood glucose levels, manage asthma, or communicate with healthcare providers, may be exempt from this policy. In such cases, parent or guardians should provide appropriate medical documentation and work with school staff to develop an agreed-upon plan.

Monitoring and Review

This statement will be reviewed every 2 years by the Trust's Head of IT and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, safeguarding guidance or Trust/school needs.

Appendix 1

Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones -Home School Agreement

On occasion, parents and carers may decide that their child needs access to their own mobile telephone *if they are walking to or home from school on their own*. At Chapel End Junior Academy we are committed to ensuring that our pupils act in a safe and responsible manner when using devices- particularly those with internet connectivity. As such, before a pupil is permitted to bring a mobile telephone into school, both the child and the parents and carers need to agree to uphold the following safeguards.

	Please tick
My child needs to bring a mobile phone into school because he/she walks to and/or from school on his/her own. <i>If your child is collected or dropped off on some days during the week, please ensure their phone stays at home on those days.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At the beginning of the school day, my child will hand in their mobile phone to their class teacher.	<input type="checkbox"/>
At the end of the school day, my child's mobile phone will be returned to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child and I understand that mobile phones are not permitted in the classroom or playground at any time.	<input type="checkbox"/>
If my child needs to use their mobile phone, they must have completely exited the school grounds before they do. At no time should my child use their phone in the classroom or playground.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child understands what acceptable and appropriate use of mobile technology is and only views and uses age appropriate content and sites- including social media APPs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child understands how to keep themselves safe when using mobile telephones in public. They understand the need to remain vigilant of their surroundings- particularly when crossing roads.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that if my child breaches any of these safeguards, he/she will no longer be permitted to bring a mobile telephone into school.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pupil's Name.....Class.....

Signature.....

Parent/CarersName.....Signature.....

Teacher.....Signature.....

Whilst we understand the need and value of mobile telephones, as a community, we want to take every opportunity to encourage quality face to face conversation with peers and family members en-route to and from school. Thanking you in advance for your support and cooperation.