



Placing children's rights at the heart of all we undertake.
respect integrity humility equality care towards all



Pride in myself; Pride in my work;
Pride in my school; Pride in my community

Glascote Primary Academy

Mobile Phone and Camera use Policy 2019-2020

At the heart of our School are both the UNICEF Rights Respecting values and articles and Learning Behaviours. Through these, we aim to put children's rights at the heart of our schools. We work together to embed children's rights in our ethos and culture; to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We aspire to give children a sense of pride and achievement in all that they undertake.

Dyslexia: The Fierté Trust recognises the unique contribution of every individual in the school community. It is an inclusive school in which adults and pupils of all abilities and from all cultures and backgrounds are valued. Pupils' wider achievement is encouraged and celebrated and the good progress of all our pupils is of paramount importance as is the safeguarding and wellbeing of all pupils.

Reviewed by: Michelle Powell

Date: November 2019

Approved by:

Date:

Next review due: November 2020

1 Introduction

1.1 At Glascote Academy and across the wider Fierté Trust, we are well aware that many primary-age children own a mobile phone and we understand the widespread growth in modern electronic communication. However, we are a school that is primarily focused on learning and the safety and well-being of our pupils is paramount. Consequently, we do not allow children to use mobile phones while they are at school and (unless authorised by the headteacher) we do not allow children to bring mobile phones into any of our schools.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims of this policy is to explain:

- how each school will manage the issue of mobile phones in school;
- the rationale for this approach;
- what parents and carers should do if they would like their child to have access to a mobile phone;
- What the schools will consider as exceptions to the normal regulations.

3 Policy for children at Glascote Academy

3.1 The school policy is that children should not bring mobile phones or any form of electronic communication devices to school.

3.2 If a child is found in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated by a member of staff for the remainder of the school day. The mobile phone will be kept in a safe place in the main school office until the end of the school day when it will be returned to the child. If this happens more than once the mobile will be returned to the parent or carer so that the school can explain why mobile phones are not permitted.

3.3 The school does not allow children to use mobile phones in school because:

- there are some concerns about the health risks connected to the frequent use of mobile phones;
- their use in school may distract pupils away from their work;
- mobile phones may be misused (for example, cyber bullying, viewing the Internet inappropriately and sending or receiving inappropriate images of members of the school community);
- Staff time could be taken up investigating lost, stolen or even broken mobile phones.

4 Policy for staff at Glascote Academy

4.1 Staff may be in possession of a mobile phone but it must be switched off (or left on silent) at all times when the adult is working with children. Mobile phones are not to be used in classrooms or school grounds. Staff should endeavour not to make or receive calls or text messages during the working school day; however, if needed mobile phones can be used in the school for private calls outside of a member of staff's working day as long as it is not a hindrance to other members of staff, or in the SLT office or Conference room (if available) if an emergency/need arises within the school day. Staff are respectfully asked not to use them in the staffroom.

4.2 Trainees/students/school work placement students (as well as all visitors) are asked to leave their mobile phone at the office ready for collection when they leave the premises

4.3 Contractors, if they are working in the school when the children are present, and need their phone for work, must turn off their phones and not use them until they are away from the premises unless it is with permission from the senior leaders of the school.

6 Exceptions

6.1 If a parent or guardian believes that there is a need for a child to be in possession of a mobile phone while at school they should write to the headteacher to explain why this is so and why special dispensation should be allowed. All cases will be considered independently and the parent will be informed of the decision. If the Headteacher allows the mobile phone in school it must be kept in the school office and collected at the end of the day. NB: As technology advances, we are aware that some pupils/staff may have health related apps on their phones (e.g. diabetes) which support their conditions. In such cases, a discussion is needed with the

Headteacher; if granted, the person responsible for the phone must adhere to correct useage i.e. for the medical app only.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 The head teacher and IT leader will monitor the implementation of the mobile phone policy. The headteacher will keep a record of all incidents involving mobile phones and will report to governors so that this policy can be reviewed as appropriate. Technology is developing so fast that, in future, the school may wish to explore how smart phones may be very helpful to assist learning. At this time the school may wish to review this policy. However, at the moment the school believes the risks outweigh the benefits of pupils bringing mobile phones to school