

**South East Stafford Academy Trust
Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy**

1. Intent

Mobile phones have become widely available and accessible to pupils. This policy is designed to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including break and lunch times. SESAT accepts that personal mobile phones are often given to pupils by their parents to ensure their safety and personal security; however, 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, whilst pupils may wish to bring additional devices to school for other reasons. This policy establishes how personal electronic devices should be used by pupils in school to ensure both personal safety and an appropriate learning environment.

2. 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 'Mobile phones in schools'
- DfE 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents'
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education' Latest Version
- DfE '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 '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
- Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints 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 and Unacceptable Use

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school. However, we recognise that some pupils carry a phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school. Therefore, parents of children who have been granted permission to walk home independently may request that their child brings a mobile phone into school (see appendix A). In line with school policy, this request is only available to parents of children in **Years 5 and 6**.

Where request has been granted, all mobile phones brought into school must be **switched off on arrival** and stored securely in the **device lockers provided in each Y5 and Y6 classroom**, unless an agreed exception is in place (for example, the use of an app to support medical needs such as diabetes).

It is the **child's responsibility** to collect their phone at the end of the school day. Phones must **not be switched on** until the pupil has left the school building.

At all times, the school reserves the right to take away the permission to bring a mobile phone to school if school policy is breached.

Tablets and other electronic devices, such as smartwatches that connect to online services, are not permitted in school.

5. Sanctions

The school will apply sanctions for breaches of this policy in a consistent and proportionate manner, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Where this policy is clearly breached, for example where a device is used, seen, or heard ringing, staff will feel confident to confiscate mobile phones. Where a mobile phone has been confiscated, parents will be informed, and asked to collect this from the main office.

6. Complaints and Challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all complaints and challenges, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.



Leasowes Primary School

Mobile Phones at Leasowes Primary School

Leasowes does not allow children to bring mobile phones or smart devices into school, so please ensure that phones remain at home. We recognise that in certain circumstances there may be a genuine need for a child to have a mobile phone. If this applies to your child, permission must be requested by a parent.

If you feel your child requires a mobile phone, please complete the form below and return it to the school office. Children who are granted permission must switch off their phone on arrival and hand it in to their class teacher, where it will be stored securely in the device lockers. Phones will be returned at the end of the school day and must not be switched on until the child has left the building.

If a child brings a mobile phone to school without permission, parents will be contacted and an adult will be required to collect the device from the office.

Safeguarding remains our highest priority and these measures help us to keep all children and staff safe. We greatly appreciate your support, which enables us to maintain a calm learning environment and focus on your child's education. We will continue to teach pupils about the safe and responsible use of mobile phones and smart devices to prepare them for secondary school and help them navigate the digital world.

If you wish to request permission, please complete the form below.

Thank you for your ongoing support in safeguarding our children and staff.

Kind regards

Mrs Bettany

Headteacher and Designated Safeguard Lead



Leasowes Primary School

Mobile Phone Request

Name: _____ Class: _____

Reason for requesting your child to bring a mobile phone into school:

Please tick which days your child needs to bring a mobile phone into school:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Signed: I accept and understand the conditions outlined above.			Date:	