

Appendix 1

Mobile phone usage at Compton All Saints' Primary School

At Compton All Saints' Primary School, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all our pupils. Recognising that mobile phones have become ever-present among children, we understand the need for a comprehensive mobile phone policy that addresses the potential dangers associated with their use. This policy aligns with our safeguarding policy and emphasises our commitment to pupil well-being.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Identify the risks associated with smartphone use.
2. Establish guidelines for mobile phone usage within the school environment.
3. Promote awareness among pupils, staff, and families about responsible phone use.
4. Provide alternatives that eliminate the necessity of purchasing a smartphone for a child.

Risks Associated with Smartphone Use

Smartphones offer advanced features, including internet access and social media, which can lead to various risks:

- **Cyberbullying:** Smartphones can facilitate harassment, making it difficult for pupils to escape bullying.
- **Exposure to Inappropriate Content:** Unfiltered internet access can expose children to unsuitable material.
- **Mental Health Concerns:** Excessive use can contribute to anxiety and depression.
- **Distraction from Learning:** Smartphones can disrupt the learning process.
- **Privacy and Security Risks:** Children may not understand how to protect their personal information, leading to exploitation.
- **Self-obsession and Personal Curation:** The culture of selfies and social media can create confidence issues.

Comparison: Smartphones vs. Brick Phones

- **Smartphones:** Multifunctional but pose significant risks.
- **Brick Phones:** Basic devices allowing voice calls and texts without internet access, providing a safer alternative for younger children.

Policy on Smartphone Ownership

Compton All Saints' Primary School does not support children owning a smartphone for the following reasons:

- Development of critical thinking and emotional regulation skills.
- Encouragement of real-life social interactions.
- Reduction of privacy risks and online dangers.

Encouragement of Alternatives

We encourage families to consider alternatives such as electronic tags or trackers for location monitoring instead of smartphones.

Guidelines for Mobile Phone Use

Effective from September 2025, the following guidelines will be implemented:

1. **Smartphones:** Children do not need a smart phone and will be discouraged from bringing one to school, unless on medical grounds. Children will not be allowed to use one on site under any circumstances. Any smart-phone brought onto school grounds must be handed into the school office immediately.

2. Brick Phones (Year 5 & 6 only): If parents wish their child to have a phone to travel to or from school, then brick phones are preferred, which must be handed in at the school office upon arrival.
3. Prohibited Devices: Other internet-linked devices (e.g., smartwatches) are not permitted at any time.

Confiscation

- Any smartphone or internet-linked device found on school premises will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or carer.
- Brick phones are permitted for the journey to and from school for Years 5 & 6, but if they are not handed in at the school office during school hours, will also be confiscated and returned to a parent or carer.

Communicating the Policy

- The mobile phone policy will be communicated to all members of the school community, including pupils and parents, to ensure clarity and consistency in its implementation.
- Regular reminders will be provided to pupils about the policy and its rationale.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff

- All staff are responsible for consistently enforcing the school's mobile phone policy.
- Staff should refrain from using their own mobile phones for personal reasons during school hours to model appropriate behaviour.
- Staff should ensure that when using smart devices, such as iPads or mobile phones, they access only work-related software and applications (e.g., email, authenticators) to maintain focus on their professional duties and minimise distractions in the classroom.
- Personal apps and communication must be conducted in designated areas, such as the staffroom, office space, or staff car park, to prevent distractions during teaching and uphold a professional learning environment for children.

Pupils

- They will be educated about the risks associated with mobile phones and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.
- Pupils are expected to understand and comply with the mobile phone policy.

Parents

- Parents are encouraged to support the school's policy and discuss its importance with their children.
- In case of urgent communication, parents should contact the school office rather than their child directly.

Sanctions

- The school reserves the right to use sanctions for breaches of the mobile phone policy, including confiscation and suspension.
- Staff are protected from liability when confiscating items if they act lawfully and proportionately.

Reporting Concerns

If any pupil, staff member, or family has concerns regarding mobile phone use, they should report it to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (the DSL will coordinate with the DOSL and any relevant organisations that can offer support and guidance with reference to KSCIE 2025). All concerns will be treated seriously and addressed in line with the school's safeguarding and behavioural policies.

Conclusion

Compton All Saints' Primary School is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. This mobile phone policy, along with our safeguarding policy, addresses the potential dangers of smartphones while promoting responsible habits among pupils. We invite parents to collaborate with us in creating a culture of safety and respect within our school community.

For further information, we encourage parents to visit the links on our school website for resources and support related to children's smartphone use. Together, we can help protect our pupils from the dangers of smartphones and guide them toward healthier technology use.

*The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: David Ware
The Deputy DSLs are: Emily Giles Hayley Chalkley*