



Lethbridge Primary School

Pupil Mobile Phone and Portable Device Policy

Reviewed: September 2024

Next review: September 2026

Introduction

We recognise that mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play a role in helping pupils to feel safe and secure. However, mobile phones are capable of more than simply helping a child get in touch with parents at the end of the day. Therefore, it is incumbent upon parents to understand the capabilities of the phone or device and the potential use and misuse of those capabilities. Lethbridge Primary School discourages children from bringing mobile phones to school if at all possible, and other devices which can use the internet or take photographs are not permitted, due to the potential negative issues that may arise, for example:

- Mobile phones may be lost, stolen or damaged
- Mobile phones can prove a distraction to teaching and learning in school
- They may provide a means of bullying or intimidating others
- There are risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the internet. Those images may remain available on the internet forever and may cause harm or embarrassment to individuals in the short or longer term.

Use of Mobile Phones

If it is necessary for a child to bring a mobile phone to school, parents need to submit a mobile phone parental consent form to the head teacher or deputy head. Other mobile internet-enabled devices such as an Apple watch are not allowed in school.

Lethbridge Primary School accepts no liability for any loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought in to school or the school grounds.

The phone must be switched off at all times when on school property, including on the playground before and after school. The phone must be handed in to the class teacher and be kept in a safe location until it is handed back to the child at the end of the day. Children attending clubs may collect their phone before going to their club.

Mobile phones brought to school without permission, or used on the school premises by a child, will be confiscated and kept in the school office, whereby a call will be made home and the child may then collect the phone at the end of the day. If this happens again, the phone will need to be collected by a parent/carer at the end of the school day. Repeat offences will result in a child being disallowed from bringing their phone to school.

If a pupil is found to be using their phone inappropriately, including taking photos or videos without consent, sending harmful messages, or any other act that brings harm to another person, then this will be dealt with in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

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