

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



"Seeking Growth Together through Jesus"

Acceptable use of Cameras and Mobile Phones Policy

Date Reviewed: Sept 23

Reviewed by: SBM

Approved by : Headteacher

Date of next review: Sept 24

Statement of Intent

It is our intention to provide an environment in which children, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used in turn eliminating the following concerns:

- Staff being distracted from their work with children
- The inappropriate use of mobile phone and cameras around children

Aim

Our aim is to:

Have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones and cameras that is understood and adhered to by all parties concerned without exception, including smart watches.

In order to achieve this aim, we operate the following Acceptable Use Policy:

The use of Mobile Phones

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School allows staff to bring in personal mobile telephones and devices for their own use. Under no circumstances does the school allow a member of staff to contact a current pupil or parent/carer using their personal device.

Users bringing personal devices into school must ensure there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device.

All staff must ensure that their mobile telephones/devices are stored away throughout contact time with children. Staff bags should be placed in a secure place within the classroom.

Mobile phone calls may only be taken at staff breaks or in staff members' own time. The use of mobile phones during teaching time is strictly forbidden. No member of staff should have their mobile phone with them whilst teaching except in circumstances where they have been granted permission by a member of the SLT. Use of mobile phones at inappropriate times (such as during lessons) will result in disciplinary action.

Staff may setup their work email on their personal phone in accordance with the Staff Acceptable Usage policy. However phones must have security measures in place such as secure sign in via biometrics or passcodes.

If staff have a personal emergency they are free to use the school's phone or make a personal call from their mobile in the staff room at a suitable time.

All staff need to ensure that the main office has up-to-date contact information and that staff make their families, children's schools etc. aware of emergency work telephone numbers. This is the responsibility of the individual staff member.

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to be vigilant and report any concerns to the Head Teacher or SLT. Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately (see Allegations against a Member of Staff Policy).

Mobile phones **must never** be used to take photographs of children under any circumstances. If this occurs, a member of the SLT should be informed immediately. If a member of the SLT is the focus of a concern, the head teacher must be informed immediately. If the head teacher is the focus of concern, the Local Authority Children's Services Department should be informed immediately (number available on safeguarding Posters around school).

If there is a concern about the image content of a member of staff's mobile phone, the Head Teacher reserves the right to check the image content or contact the police.

Should inappropriate material be found then the police and Blackpool Children's Safeguarding Board will be contacted immediately. We will follow the guidance from the Local Authority as to the appropriate measures for the staff member's disciplinary proceedings.

Parents/carers are able to use mobile phones to record school assemblies and other events, but are asked to respect the wishes of other parents and limit their recording to their own child(ren). Senior members of staff are always present at these events to monitor the recording taking place.

Children are not permitted to use any personal mobile phone/ devices during school hours. Children should leave their personal mobile phone/ devices with the school office at the start of the school day and collect them at the end of the school day.

The use of Cameras

Only school owned cameras should be used in conjunction with school owned memory cards. Personal memory cards should never be put into school cameras and school memory cards should never be put in to personal cameras.

School camera memory cards should be downloaded on to school computers only.

Photographs must be taken for the purpose of recording a child or group of children participating in activities or celebrating their achievements and in an effective way to record their progress and development.

The camera must be put away securely at the end of every session. Any suspicious activity will be reported directly to an SLT member.

Photographs of children should always be taken when they are in open spaces and visible by other adults. Photographs should not be taken on a 1:1 basis or when alone with a child under any circumstances.

Failure to adhere to the contents of this policy will lead to disciplinary procedures being followed.

Permission to take photographs of children at school must be granted by the parents/carers. Staff should take all reasonable action to obtain permission as we recognise that photographing children's learning and development is an excellent assessment for learning tool. Parents can also specify if they consent to photographs being used for specific purposes – please contact the school office for more information. It is the class teacher's responsibility to maintain records of parental consent and ensure that photographs are used in accordance with parents/carers wishes.

The use of Smart Watches

All smart watches must be set to Do Not Disturb modes when in school so no notifications are received whilst in the classroom. Smart Watches are not to be used to send and reply to messages or interact with mobile phones in any way whilst in class.