



School Development Planning Support (Primary)

Mobile Phones

June 2010

FOR BOM REVIEW ON JUNE 6th, 2013

Mobile Phones

To be ratified by the Board of Management on September 2010

Reviewed within 12 months as necessary.

School: Aston Village ETNS

Mobile Phones

It is recognised that mobile phones can be intrusive and distracting in all situations and particularly in schools. For this reason Aston Village ETNS prohibits the use of mobile phones in this school, except in exceptional circumstances detailed below. In addition to the inconvenience, the debate still goes on about the possible harmful effects of the frequent use of mobile phones. Children could be particularly vulnerable in this regard. For these reasons if mobile phones are brought into school the pupil will be asked to turn it off and hand it to the teacher. The teacher will then put them in a drawer until the end of the day.

Circumstances where a mobile phone could be used:

- In exceptional circumstances pupils are allowed a mobile phone if their parent has sent in a note stating they need their phone for before or after school. In this case the children turn off their mobile phone and give it to their teacher. The teacher stores the mobile phones in a drawer in the classroom until it is time to go home.
- The school has sent up the text-a-parent scheme in which parents are sent a text from the central database that the school has set up. This service has proved very valuable and an excellent means of communicating information to the parents in a quick, simple and efficient manner.
- Special Needs Assistants and the Principal are permitted to have their phones on them and turned on at all times.
- If pupils bring mobile phones to school, with no written permission from their parents and despite their teacher telling them not to. The phones are confiscated and stored in a drawer in the classroom. They are returned to their owners at the end of the day.
- The special circumstances where mobile phones are permitted are school trips or sports events when pupils have to participate away from the school. If the school trip is an overnight one the children are not allowed them during the activities but in an allocated time in order to contact their parents/guardians.
- The use of mobile phones is also covered in the school's anti bullying policy.
- Camera phones are strictly forbidden and under no circumstances should photos be taken with a camera phone.
- Staff are allowed mobile phones but must be turned off during class time. The allocated times for staff to use mobile phones are lunch times and before and after the school day. The use of mobile phones by staff for essential calls should be kept to the minimum and should be taken /made if possible in an open area or in an area where pupils are not present. Under exceptional circumstances staff can use a mobile phone in order to contact another member of staff if they or the children are in danger.
- Staff are also permitted their mobile phones on school tours.
- In cases where a family member of a member of staff is sick or in hospital it is permitted for those staff members to have their mobile tuned on.
- If phones are lost or stolen while on school grounds the school holds no responsibility.
- A scheme is in place where phones are recycled and sent to charitable organisations.

- It is intended to communicate the school's policy to the school community and parents.