

# Firpark Secondary School – School Protocols

## Mobile Phone Position Statement

### Rationale

Mobile technology is an integral part of the lives of children and young people across Scotland, with many bringing their own mobile devices into school. Used responsibly, mobile devices such as phones, tablets etc can enhance learning and teaching, communication and social experiences and can bring a sense of security to parents as their children enjoy more independent activities, such as walking to and from school unsupervised. Such devices can also be powerful tools when utilised by teachers to enhance learning and teaching.

There are risks associated with children and young people bringing their own personal mobile devices into schools. The inappropriate use of this technology can also detract from their appropriate use in learning and can involve teaching staff, children and young people, and parents in investigations which require disproportionate amounts of time and can cause significant disruption to the school and wider community.

We wish to promote the safe and responsible use of mobile devices while encouraging staff to adopt a robust but measured response to the consequences of their inappropriate use. This will help staff, children and young people, and parents to enjoy the flexibility that mobile devices can provide, whilst helping them to feel safe and protected from harm and reducing the likelihood of accessing inappropriate content.

### Aims

1. To create a shared understanding of the safe and appropriate use of mobile technology at Firpark Secondary.
2. To enhance learning and teaching through targeted use of mobile technology.
3. To minimise the risk of pupils being exposed to inappropriate material.

### Procedure

Mobile phones can be switched on during transport to and from school, during intervals and lunchtime. Mobile phones should be on silent and always kept out of sight during lessons.

Mobile phones should never be used to film or take photographs of pupils or staff either within the school grounds or on a school trip.

Inappropriate use of mobile technology may result in a request to hand the device to an appropriate member of staff to be returned at a later time either the pupil or a parent / carer.

Any instance of misuse of mobile technology should be brought to the attention of a member of the SLT. In some situations, further advice may be sought from the local authority or the police.

Consideration of situations where mobile phones may be needed to be used by a young person will be looked at on an individual basis, for example, a young carer who is worried about the health of their parents.

The school will not take responsibility/liability for personal mobile devices in terms of loss, theft or breakage.

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## **Responsibilities**

Parents - To support the school in promoting the appropriate use of mobile technology within the school.

Teachers / support staff – To support pupils in the appropriate use of mobile technology and make the SLT aware of any concerns.

Pupils – To adhere to the school procedures on the use of mobile technology.

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## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The effectiveness of this position statement will be monitored on an ongoing basis. The position will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be amended in light of local or national advice.

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## **Supporting Documents**

A full list of legislation relevant to all aspects of online safety, including the safe and responsible use of mobile technology, can be found in the annex.

[Safe and responsible use of mobile technology in schools: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Respect for All – National Approach to Anti Bullying

[Respect for All: national approach to anti-bullying - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)