

Fair Isle Primary and ELC's Policy on the 'Safe and Responsible Use of Mobile Technology in Schools'



Our policy follows The Scottish Government vision:

"To enable all schools and local authorities to develop an ethos of digital citizenship that leads to safe and responsible use of mobile technology. This will encourage schools to positively embrace mobile technology to enhance learning now and in the future whilst helping them protect staff, children and young people from possible harmful consequences of misuse".

This policy provides guidance on the appropriate use of personal mobile devices by staff, visitors and pupils during school hours, following the Scottish government purpose of promoting a positive relationship and behaviour in a digital context by recognising the important role of educators in preparing young people to become 'digital citizens.' It takes into account the fact that young people have extensive access to the internet through mobile devices out-with school.

The promotion of digital citizenship moves beyond compliant behaviour and involves commitment to responsible behaviour. This policy was written in consultation with the whole school community (staff, children and parents) to help ensure whole school engagement with, and commitment to, the policy. The policy is reviewed annually to ensure the commitment of new staff, children and parents to the policy and to take account of new developments in technology.

The aim of our policy is to ensure that:

- Staff and visitors use their mobile devices in a responsible and educational way and in accordance with the school policy
- Pupils learn responsible use of mobile devices in working/studying environments
- Learning and teaching is not interrupted
- Pupils are safe and feel safe
- Pupils can be contacted in school and make contact during the day and after school without the use of mobile phones
- During school trips pupils learn to use their mobile devices as a way to communicate effectively and responsibly with their parent/carer

The Scottish government provides guidance notes on promoting the safe and responsible use of mobile technology in schools. They state that:

"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."

1. If any pupil brings a mobile device to school it must be switched off and left in the school porch before entering the classroom. We recommend that children do not bring any devices to school in case of loss/theft or damage, which the school will not be responsible for.
2. If a pupil brings a device into the classroom, or it is used during breaks/playtimes, it will be confiscated until after school. If this occurs again, the pupil will have their device confiscated every morning at 9.00am and the parents will be informed that this is happening.
3. Headphones should not be shared between pupils. Each child is provided with their own school set for class activities.
4. To respect privacy, personal or school mobile device cameras and filming functions must not be used without the prior consent of the subjects (pupils, staff, visitors etc.) and teachers.
5. We accept that there will be times when parents feel it is necessary for them to contact their children urgently. Should parents need to contact pupils, or vice versa, the school phone line can be used.
6. All mobile devices used in the classroom for learning and teaching purposes can only connect to the internet through the SIC broadband and its strict associated filters.
7. We directly teach about internet safety using sites such as Think U Know, a website for young people and their parents/carers and teachers run by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) www.thinkuknow.co.uk.
8. We emphasis the need for safe and responsible use of mobile technology by the children and staff out-with formal learning and teaching purposes.
9. Images or recordings obtained by use of mobile phones should not be uploaded on social networking or other websites without the express permission of the subjects.
10. Staff may keep mobile phones on during school time (and must have them on at all times when out of school with pupils) but should only be used for school issues.
11. Any misuse of mobile phones in school should be reported to the Head Teacher and support will be actioned for any pupil who may become the subject of harassment from the use of mobile technologies. The police will be called to deal with those breaking the law.
12. Pupils may take mobile technology such as a ipad/tablet, phone or smart watch, on school trips but they will only be allowed to use them supervised by the teacher in charge e.g. listening to music on the plane, phoning home, listening to or reading eBooks on a device. The staff member in charge of the trip will look after personal mobile devices out-with these times but cannot be held responsible in the case of loss, theft or damage. It is up to parents whether their child should be allowed to take a mobile device on a school trip.

G.Maxwell

Head Teacher

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