

## **Woodpark Primary School**

### **Mobile Phones Policy – September 2009**

We at Woodpark Primary recognise that we are living in an ever-changing world where children and young people are increasingly reliant on new technology.

While we do not want to deter our children from embracing these new technologies and the skills needed for them, we need to ensure that they are all safe while doing so.

Some new technologies are not appropriate for school due to the fact that they are expensive pieces of equipment and do not meet with the need to encourage a more active lifestyle within the school e.g PSPs, MP3 players, portable DVD players etc.

Mobile phones have become an essential part of everyday life for most people and a vital form of communication, whether through using the phone itself, or text messaging. In school, however, phones can be a distraction for the child using the phone and those around him/her.

In Woodpark Primary, therefore, the decision has been taken, having consulted with parents, not to allow phones to be used during the school day. School should be a safe environment for all and it is therefore unnecessary for a child to need a phone so urgently that they cannot use the phone in the school office.

Since there are some children who cannot have their photographs taken within school, it is also inappropriate for phones to be used for their cameras. There has been no permission sought from parents to allow this practice, and considering how quickly and easily photographs can travel from phone to phone, this would not be appropriate within a primary school.

Many parents may wish their child to have their phone with them in case their child needs to contact them on the way to school or on the way home – this is perfectly acceptable and understandable. When children arrive in school, however, the phone should be switched off and brought to the school office where it will be kept until 3pm. Children can then collect their phone again at home time.

Any child who disregards the policy of the school will have their phone confiscated and their parents will be informed. A child who uses their phone in an inappropriate way may face tougher sanctions and there is the possibility of police involvement in instances of illegal use.