**CEFN SAESON COMPREHENSIVE**

**SCHOOL**

**MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

**2024**

**Introduction**

The widespread ownership of mobile phones amongst young people

requires that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers

take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used in a responsible manner.

This policy is designed to ensure that any potential issues involving mobile

phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that

mobile phones provide (such as increased safety), can continue to be

enjoyed by our students.

The increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents issues

for schools, particularly about children’s safety and wellbeing. The

integration of cameras into phones and the accessibility of internet

technology can lead to potential child protection and data protection

issues.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an

environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

Therefore, the school strongly discourages bringing mobile phones to

school. Governors and staff at Cefn Saeson are aware that some children

may need mobile phones when travelling to and from school. With this in

mind the following policy and procedures have been designed. The school

is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the

parameters of the policy as stated below.

The term parents is used in this policy should be interpreted to also include

designated carers guardians and other adults with specific responsibility

for children.

The term mobile phone it used in this policy should be interpreted to also

include other personal electronic devices with similar features

connectivity and applications (for example tablets and smart watches).

**Principles**

The staff and governors of Cefn Saeson recognise that many pupils have

mobile phones. We also recognise that some parents request that their

child bring a mobile phone to school for safety and security reasons on the

way to and from school.

Pupils who bring their mobile phones into school must switch **off** their

phone upon arrival at the school. The school site refers to all areas of the

school both inside and outside.

**The phone should remain switched off throughout the day and be kept**

**out of sight (for example in their bag). Throughout the day means that**

**no distinction is made between form time, lesson time, break, lunch or**

**after-school activities.**

Alternatively, if a pupil needs to contact the parents, they may use the telephone in the school office or PAWB. Such calls, however, should only be made in an emergency.

If, at the end of the day, pupils need to contact parents using a mobile

phone (e.g. to discuss collection), they may do this at the main school

gates. They may remain on the school site, but they must be at the gates.

Pupils are not permitted to bring out their mobile phones until they reach

the school gate.

As is normal procedure, if the parent wants to contact their child during the school day, they should contact the school office and not the child's mobile device. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the appropriate point of contact and staff will ensure your child is reached. Passing on messages through the school reception also reduces the likelihood of disrupting lessons inadvertently.

Pupils who use a mobile phone or other device on the school site with

definition will be required to handover their phone to a member of staff and/or hand the phone into Reception. An appropriate sanction will follow.

Pupils will also be required to relinquish their phone if a member of staff

suspects that it contains unsuitable material, if the pupils have taken

photographs on the site or if they have used phones for any form of

bullying.

In circumstances where there is a suspicion that material on the mobile

phone is of an offensive nature, then appropriate action will be taken

which may involve the police. It should be noted that it can be a criminal

offence to use a mobile phone for malice and to harass or offend another

person.

Pupils remain responsible for their own properties and will be responsible

for any losses should they choose to bring the mobile phone into school.

Parents should be aware that if a child takes a mobile phone to school, it

is assumed that household or specialist insurers will provide the required

cover in the event of loss or damage. The school accepts NO responsibility

for replacing lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones.

**Sanctions**

If a pupil infringes on the principles set out in this policy, the mobile phone

will be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place in

reception. The pupils will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of

the school day. An appropriate sanction may follow.

When pupil’s infringement is persistent or when pupils have used their

mobile phones to film or record members of staff or pupils, or use their

mobile phone for malicious activity and humiliate, embarrass of causes

offence, then the pupils will receive sanctions that are more substantial.

Such sanctions are likely to include a fixed term or even a permanent

exclusion.

Any alleged criminal of incident may be referred to the police investigation. In such serious cases, the parents will be notified immediately.

**Trips**

In the case of routine educational visits, children taking part in school

sports fixtures or overseas trips consideration will be given to mobile

phones being allowed. This will be reviewed on a trip by trip basis

 This Policy was presented to Governors on 7th December 2023

 It will be reviewed in annually or if National and Local Policy or Guideline is updated.

Signed: 

Cllr Peter Rees

Chair of Governors