



# **Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School**



## **Mobile Phone Policy**

**Date of policy: September 2022  
Next Review: September 2025**



### Mission Statement

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on being a culturally diverse family. We seek to instil, in every child that we nurture, the joy and wonder of learning.

As we journey together with Christ, we develop children's resilience, intellectual curiosity and creativity through our positive learning behaviours. We nurture and cherish the unique talents of all, to empower them to flourish and grow into life-long learners.

Our mission is to show love, promote learning and belief in God our Father.

**LOVE – LEARN- BELIEVE**

### Introduction

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary school, the mobile phone policy has been reviewed recently and takes into account the potential of modern technology which allows us to make phone calls, send text messages, take photographs and access the internet. The policy also reflects national concern over the role of mobile phones in bullying and child abuse issues.

As a result, we have decided that there is no justification for having a mobile phone in school.

***Therefore, mobile phones are banned from the school premises at all times, for all pupils.***

### Rationale

The main reasons for banning pupils having mobile phones in school are as follows;

- Bullying – Mobile phones can be used to bully other children
- Inappropriate Use – Mobiles have been used in other schools to transmit inappropriate or unauthorised images of pupils and/or staff.
- Disruption – Using mobile phones within school time may disrupt learning and teaching.
- Crime – Mobiles are the cause of much crime and being a valuable item can go missing in school.
- Health Risks – There is a lot of research which suggests that mobile phones are not suitable for children.



## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Bullying and Inappropriate Use**

The purpose of this policy is to prevent unacceptable use of mobile phones or camera-phones by pupils, and thereby to protect the School's staff and pupils from undesirable materials, filming, intimidation or harassment.

Nearly all phones now have a camera facility. These phones may enable pupils to make still images of each other and send them to other phones, or post them on the internet. Sometimes these can be candid images that have been taken without the consent or even knowledge of the subjects, with malicious intent.

This is something that we will not tolerate and in order to ensure this never happens at Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School.

### **Crime**

We realise for those pupils that travel to and from school on their own, having a mobile phone may be seen as beneficial for that child's safety.

However, mobile phones are one of the main causes of muggings of under 16s, so they are far from being helpful to our children's safety. Therefore we do not want to encourage any possibility of compromising our pupil's safety on their way to and from school, due to mobile phones.

Police advice is not to allow mobiles in school, and to discourage the use of mobiles on that journey to and from school.

Parents may leave any important messages with the school office staff and they will be passed on accordingly.

### **Health Risks**

In addition to safety concerns there is a lot of research into mobile phones and computers with wireless internet connections posing a risk to human health. The Council of Europe committee examined evidence that the technologies have "potentially harmful" effects on humans, and concluded that immediate action was required to protect children.



## Guidelines

### Children

**Mobile phones are banned from the school premises at all times, for all pupils.**

Pupils are **NOT** allowed to take their mobile phones on school day trips or residential school journeys.

**Smart watches and wearable smart technology ARE NOT PERMITTED in school.**

### Staff

The school recognises that staff will bring their mobile phones to work and that they will be used within the parameters of this policy.

- The use of mobile phones is restricted to break and lunchtimes. At all other times of the day, staff mobile phones will be switched off or on silence. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.
- Under no circumstances should mobile phones be used in a space where children are present classrooms, playgrounds etc.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on the playground or during meetings.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile phones, for example: to take photographs or videos of children. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as cameras and IPADS.
- Staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones for contacting parents and families. In the event of an emergency only where access to the office telephone is not possible, a member of staff can use the prefix 141 to conceal their own mobile number on their mobile prior to contacting the relevant parent/carer.

### Parents, visitors and contractors

Parents, visitors and contractors are respectfully requested not to use their mobile phones in any area where children are present. Should phone calls and/or texts need to be taken or made, use is restricted to those areas not accessed by children in order to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or disruption to others. Following permission from the Headteacher, parents often photograph or video school events



## BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones. We do insist that parents do not publish images on social networking sites that include any children other than their own.

Any individual bringing a personal device into the setting must ensure that it contains no inappropriate or illegal content.

### **Sanctions**

If a child is found in possession of a mobile phone, the phone will be immediately confiscated and sent to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The parent or carer is expected to contact the school to make an appointment to collect the phone.

Taking pictures/videos on mobile phones in school, without permission, is both contravening the Data Protection Act of 1998 and breaking the rules of Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School.

In any case where a mobile phone is used to record sound, pictures or video images which are deemed to be an invasion of privacy, the school will reserve the right to apply an appropriate sanction which could include exclusion from school and, in extreme cases, permanent exclusion.

Any severe harassment or continuous bullying with regard to mobile phones could result in police involvement which could lead to prosecution.

### **Conclusion**

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School reserves the right to protect its pupils and staff and holds the Safeguarding of all pupils with the upmost regard.

Therefore, pupil mobile phones are strictly banned from Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School and should not be used on the way to and from school.

<b>Headteacher:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	