



# St James CofE Primary School

## Mobile Phones and Camera Policy

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**Approved :**

## INTRODUCTION

St James CE Primary School recognises that one of the key ways to support children's development, and engage parents in children's learning, is through photographs that record their children's activities and achievements. We also acknowledge the importance of mobile phones for communication purposes. Important as these technologies are, it is critical that they are used responsibly, this policy aims to ensure that.

This policy applies to the use of any film and electronic photographic equipment. This will include mobile phones and portable gaming devices with in-built cameras as well as other forms of digital technology and resources for storing and printing images. The policy applies to all staff and volunteers, and covers both indoor and outdoor areas.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (2018) affects the official use of photography by educational settings, as an image of a child is considered to be personal data.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology and images within the school. This includes the management, implementation, monitoring and review of the this policy.

## USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS BY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Staff and volunteers should not use their personal mobile phones or cameras to take any photographs or videos of pupils.

Mobile phones should be turned off or set to silent during class or work time, unless permission has been granted by the Headteacher.

Mobile phones should not be used for personal use during teaching sessions.

Where it is essential for staff to make a personal call during a teaching session, they should do so in an area not in use by children.

Staff must give the school telephone number to their next of kin, in case it is necessary for the staff member to be contacted, in an emergency, during session hours.

A mobile phone will be taken on whole-group outings in accordance with guidance.

Staff should not take images of a child's injury, bruising or similar even if requested by children's social care; or make audio recordings of a child's disclosure

The Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage states that providers should take contact telephone numbers and a mobile phone on outings.

It is not appropriate to take photographs of bruising or injuries on a child for child protection concerns. A 'Body Map' must be used to record factual observations.

It may sometimes be necessary to use a mobile phone to communicate with other staff or request help or assistance. The use of a mobile phone in these circumstances will be permitted.

## THE SCHOOL NOTES THE FOLLOWING OFSTED ADVICE

Mobile phones may be used in school, as long as their use is appropriate. The use of a mobile phone must not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children.

If inspectors observe, or become aware of, staff using a mobile phone for non-essential purposes they will consider drawing this to the attention of the manager, supervisor or registered provider. They will also consider if the staff member was meeting the needs of the children, when using the telephone, and consider the impact on inspection judgements, including setting an action.

## THE USE OF MOBILES PHONES AND CAMERAS BY PARENTS,CARERS AND VISITORS

Parents and visitors should not take any photographs or video footage of children other than at school events (see below).

Parents are reminded that no photos or video footage should be taken during productions with children but time will be given afterwards for individual photos of their children.

Parents are made aware that any images taken must be for private use only and that that it is illegal to sell or distribute any such recording without proper permission.

The right to withdraw consent will be maintained and any photography or filming on site will be open to scrutiny at any time.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns regarding the use of images.

## THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS BY PUPILS

In certain circumstances pupils can bring personal mobile phones into school but these must be left in the care of the School Office at the start of the day. Any pupils bringing a phone into school should have received consent by completing the Mobile Phone Permission Form (see Appendix 1). Children are not permitted to use personal mobile phones in school to access 3G or 4G networks and if found doing so, will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Behaviour Policy.

If children are using cameras we will:

Discuss and agree age appropriate acceptable use rules with children regarding the appropriate use of cameras, such as places children can not take the camera (e.g. unsupervised areas, toilets etc).

Ensure all staff will be made aware of the acceptable use rules regarding children's use of cameras and will ensure that children are appropriately supervised when taking images for official or curriculum use.

Role model positive behaviour to the children by encouraging them to ask permission before they take any photos.

Ensure that photographs taken by children for official use will only be taken with parental consent and that their use will be carefully controlled and will be checked carefully before sharing online.

Inform parents/carers that children will be taking photos/videos of other children for personal use on the residential trip.

## THE USE OF IMAGES AND VIDEO RECORDINGS BY THE SCHOOL

### GENERAL GUIDANCE

Images or videos that include children will be selected carefully when used online.

Children's names will not be used on the website in association with photographs

The school will not include any personal addresses, emails, telephone numbers, fax numbers on video, on the website, in a prospectus or in other printed publications.

The school will only use images of children who are suitably dressed.

Staff will receive information regarding the safe and appropriate use of images as part of their safeguarding training and responsibilities.

All members of staff (including volunteers) will ensure that all images are available for scrutiny and will be able to justify any images in their possession.

Only official setting owned equipment (e.g. work provided digital or video cameras) will be used by staff to capture images of children for official purposes.

Careful consideration will be given before involving very young or vulnerable children when taking photos or recordings, who may be unable to question why or how activities are taking place.

The school will discuss the use of images with children and young people in an age appropriate way.

Images will not be taken of any child or young person against their wishes. A child or young person's right not to be photographed is to be respected.

Photography is not permitted in sensitive areas such as changing room, toilets, swimming areas etc.

Photographs will be instantly downloaded onto encrypted memory sticks then disposed of as soon as possible.

#### PARENTAL CONSENT (inline with GDPR)

Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before images/videos of children are electronically published by the setting.

Written parental consent will be sought to take and use photographs off-site for marketing and training purposes.

Written consent from parents will be kept by the setting where children's images are used for publicity purposes.

Parental permission will be sought on annual basis (Photography and Internet Permission Form).

A record of all consent details will be kept securely on file.

#### STORAGE OF IMAGES AND RECORDINGS

Images will not be kept for longer than is to be considered necessary.

All images will remain on site unless prior consent has been given by the Headteacher.

The Headteacher reserves the right to view any images taken and/or to withdraw or modify a member of staffs' authorisation to take or make images at any time.

Any memory stick, CD or storage device containing images of children to be taken off-site for further work should be suitably encrypted.

#### THE USE OF IMAGES OF CHILDREN BY THE MEDIA

Where a press photographer is to be invited to celebrate an event, every effort will be made to ensure that the newspaper's (or other relevant media) requirements can be met. A written agreement will be sought from parents and carers and the press which will request that a preagreed and accepted amount of personal information (e.g. first names only) can be published along with images and videos.

The identity of any press representative will be verified and access will only be permitted where the event is planned, and where press are to be specifically invited to attend.

No authorisation will be given to unscheduled visits by the press under any circumstances.

Every effort will be made to ensure the press abide by any specific guidelines should they be requested.

No responsibility or liability however can be claimed for situations beyond reasonable control, and where the setting is to be considered to have acted in good faith.

#### PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographers will sign an agreement which ensures compliance with the General Data Protection Act and that images will only be used for a specific purpose, subject to parental consent.

Photographers will not have unsupervised access to children and young people.

#### APPENDIX ONE: PERMISSION TO BRING A MOBILE PHONE INTO SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Permission Form