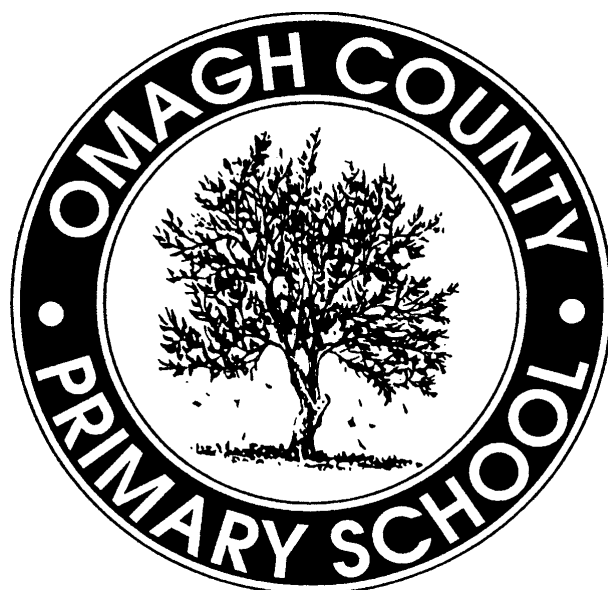


OMAGH COUNTY P.S.



We believe, we achieve...

ACCEPTABLE USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY for MOBILE PHONES
AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES: PUPILS.**

Reviewed:

Ratified:

RATIONALE

Omagh County Primary School accepts that some parents/guardians give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Omagh County Primary School therefore has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Related Technologies. The policy provides teachers, pupils, parents/guardians with guidelines and instructions for their appropriate use during school hours.

- This policy also applies to students during school excursions and extra-curricular activities.
- Omagh County Primary School **strongly discourages** pupils from bringing mobile phones to school.
- The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- If pupils bring mobile phones to school, the phones must be switched off and given to the class teacher to keep in a secure place until the end of the school day.
- Should parents need to contact pupils during the school day, or vice versa, this should be done following the usual school procedures: via the school office.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone during the school day, the phone may be taken from the pupil and handed to a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The mobile phone will be stored in the school office until the end of the school day. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day and the child's parent/guardian will be contacted.
- Phones must **NEVER** be used to photograph other children within the school. There are children in school whose parents have opted for 'no photographs' in the consent forms.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone inappropriately (eg. Phone calls on school premises, to send inappropriate texts or to take inappropriate photographs/video footage of either other pupils or teachers), this will be regarded as a serious offence and the Principal will decide on appropriate disciplinary action in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.
- It should be noted that it is a **criminal offence** to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The Principal or a member of the school's SLT may consider it appropriate to refer any such matter to the PSNI.
- If images (photographic or video) of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the pupil, in the presence of a member of the SLT or the child's parent/guardian has removed the images. A member of the school's SLT will always contact a parent/guardian before asking a child to delete material from their mobile phone.
- A member of the school's SLT will contact parents/guardians in all cases where inappropriate photographs/video/audio footage has been found.

RELATED TECHNOLOGY

- The procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of related technologies with similar capabilities, eg, messaging, recording (audio & video), photography etc.

EXEMPTIONS

- Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances. Pupils may be allowed to use these technologies under the specific guidance of their teacher on a specific day, eg., the last day of term.

CONCLUSION

- This policy will be reviewed in the summer term of the academic year 2017/18 or amended in advance of this timescale as appropriate in line with appropriate guidance/legislation.