



# ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Approved by			
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<b>Position:</b>	Chair of Governors		
<b>Signed:</b>	<i>C. Battle</i>	<b>Version Number:</b>	1
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# **St John Henry Newman Catholic School**

## **Mobile Phone Policy**

### **1. Rationale**

At St John Henry Newman Catholic School, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment. The Department for Education (DfE) encourages schools to have clear policies on mobile phones to reduce disruption, prevent bullying, and support pupil wellbeing. This policy outlines when and how mobile phones may be used on school premises.

### **2. General Expectations**

- Pupils are permitted to bring mobile phones to school, but use of these devices is strictly controlled.
- The school does not accept responsibility for the security, loss, or damage of personal devices brought onto site.

### **3. Use of Mobile Phones Inside the School Building**

- Mobile phones **must not be used inside the school building at any time.**
- Phones should be switched off or placed on silent and kept in bags or lockers during lessons, assemblies, and lesson transitions.
- Any use of phones inside the building without explicit staff permission will be treated as a breach of this policy.

### **4. Use of Mobile Phones Outside the School Building**

- Mobile phones may be used **only at lunchtime** and only **outside** in the designated areas:
  - At picnic tables
  - On the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)
- Mobile phones must not be used for:
  - Taking photos or recording videos of pupils, staff, or visitors
  - Sharing inappropriate content or engaging in cyberbullying
  - Playing loud music or using the device in a disruptive manner
- Pupils are expected to use their phones responsibly, respecting the privacy and safety of others.

### **5. Safeguarding and Online Safety**

- Any misuse of mobile phones that breaches safeguarding expectations (e.g., bullying, image sharing, inappropriate communication) will be treated seriously and may involve parental contact, confiscation, or further sanctions.
- Staff will address incidents in line with the school's **Behaviour Policy**, **Safeguarding Policy**, and **Acceptable Use Policy**.

## **6. Sanctions for Misuse**

- **First breach:** Phone confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- **Repeated breaches:** Phone held securely until collected by a parent/carer.
- **Serious misuse (e.g., taking images, bullying, sharing offensive material):** Further disciplinary action, including suspension, may be applied.

## **7. Exceptions**

- Pupils with medical needs or specific learning requirements may be permitted to use a mobile device under staff supervision, with prior agreement from parents/carers and the school.

## **8. Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually in line with DfE guidance and updated to reflect any changes in statutory requirements or school practice.