

Blossom Federation

Daubeney, Sebright and Lauriston



Mobile Phone Guidance

March 2024

Introduction

In February 2024, the Department for Education published non-statutory guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. This guidance makes up the majority of this policy. The guidance is primarily aimed at secondary aged pupils, but some aspects of this apply to our Blossom Federation Schools.

The Blossom Federation Schools have developed their own internal processes which reflect their school's individual needs and contexts. These differ slightly per school, but are arrangements which have been in place for several years.

Daubeney & Colvestone

No mobile phones are brought to school. Phones are left at home or with parents.

Sebright & Lauriston

These schools allow children in Y5 and Y6 to bring a mobile phone to school as they may need it before and after school because they walk to school or go home alone. On entry to the school each child turns off their phone and hands in their device to school staff and these are then collected at the end of the school day.

Recommendations for the management of these guidelines

The Role of staff

All staff should consistently enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones. Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. There may be occasions where it is appropriate for a member of staff to use a mobile phone or similar device, for instance to issue homework, issue rewards and sanctions or use multi-factor authentication or to update a CPOMS record etc.

The Role of Children

All children should be clear on the school's expectations about mobile phones.

Children are taught the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly, to ensure they understand the decision being taken by their school to prohibit the

use of mobile phones throughout the school day. These risks can include a loss of focus in lessons, classroom disruption and an increase in bullying.

Children are also taught the benefits of having a mobile phone-free environment and be encouraged to see such an environment as desirable and valuable. This will help to create intrinsic motivation to support the school culture.

The Role of Parents & Carers

Parents & Carers have an important role in supporting the school's expectations. They should discuss the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Where parents & carers need to contact their child during the school day, they know to contact the school office.

Other Associated Guidance

Whilst all the Blossom Federation Schools prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day to reduce distraction and disruption, we will make reasonable adjustments where necessary.

For example, allowing children access to their mobile phone during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability or additional needs, if required, or supporting children with medical conditions at school. In some circumstances, supporting children with their medical condition can involve the use of a mobile phone. For example, children with diabetes might use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar levels.

We would approach cases like this on an individual basis.

For more information and a link to the Department of Education guidance, see this [link](#).

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The Blossom Federation
March 2024