

MEREWORTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Mobile & Smart Technology & Social Media Policy

Date of Publication	September 2021
Person with responsibility	Amanda Lavelle Head Teacher
Review Date	September 2022
Governing Body	FGB
Chair of Governors <i>Signature and Date</i>	
Head Teacher <i>Signature and Date</i>	

Mereworth Community Primary School Mobile and Smart Technology Policy



Key Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Lavelle, Headteacher

Named Governor with lead responsibility: Mr. M Davis

Date written: September 2021

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: September 2021

Date of next review: September 2022

This policy will be reviewed **at least** annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance or procedures.

1. Policy aims and scope

- This policy has been written by Mereworth C.P School, involving staff, learners and parents/carers, building on The Education People's mobile and smart technology policy template with specialist advice and input as required, taking into account the DfE statutory guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' 2021, [Early Years and Foundation Stage](#) 2021 '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' 2018 and the local [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership](#) (KSCMP) procedures.
- The purpose of this policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all members of the Mereworth C.P School community when using mobile devices and smart technology.
 - Mereworth C.P School recognises that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all learners and staff are protected from potential harm when using mobile and smart technology.
 - As outlined in our Child Protection Policy, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Miss Amanda Lavelle is recognised as having overall responsibility for online safety.
- This policy applies to all access to and use of all mobile and smart technology on site; this includes mobile phones and personal devices such as tablets, e-readers, games consoles and wearable technology, such as 'smart watches and fitness trackers, which facilitate communication or have the capability to record sound or images.
- This policy applies to learners, parents/carers and all staff, including the governing body, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the setting (collectively referred to as "staff" in this policy).

2. Links with other policies

- This policy links with several other policies, practices and action plans, including but not limited to:
 - Anti-bullying policy
 - Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)
 - Behaviour and Exclusion policy including Searching, screening and confiscation
 - Cameras and image use policy
 - Child protection policy
 - Code of conduct/staff Handbook
 - Confidentiality policy
 - Curriculum policies, such as: Computing, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
 - Data security
 - Online Safety
 - Social media

3. Safe use of mobile and smart technology expectations

- Mereworth C.P School recognises that use of mobile and smart technologies is part of everyday life for many learners, staff and parents/carers.
- Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user. All members of the Mereworth C.P School community are advised to:
 - take steps to protect their mobile phones or personal devices from loss, theft or damage; we accept no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on our premises.
 - use passwords/PIN numbers to ensure that unauthorised access, calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices.
- Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in specific areas on site, such as changing rooms and toilets.
- **They should not be used in class or in the presence of children. Children's phones should be handed in to the office upon arrival in school.**
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content via mobile phones or personal devices is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with in line with our anti-bullying, behaviour and child protection policies.
- All members of the Mereworth C.P School community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be offensive, derogatory or illegal, or which would otherwise contravene our behaviour or child protection policies.

4. School/setting-provided mobile phones and devices

- Mereworth C.P School has a school mobile for use on trips and residential. All other calls to parents and outside agencies are made using the school land line.
- Staff providing formal remote learning will do so using Mereworth provided equipment in accordance with our acceptable use policy/remote learning AUP.
- School mobile phones and devices will be suitably protected via a passcode/password/PIN and must only be accessed or used by members of staff.
- School mobile phones and devices will always be used in accordance with the acceptable use of technology policy and other relevant policies.
- Where staff are using school provided mobile phones and devices, they will be informed prior to use via our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that activity may be monitored for safeguarding reasons and to ensure policy compliance.

5. Staff use of mobile and smart technology

- Members of staff will ensure that use of any mobile and smart technology, including personal phones and mobile devices, will take place in accordance with the law, as well as relevant school policy and procedures, such as confidentiality, child protection, data security staff behaviour/code of conduct and Acceptable Use Policies.
- Staff will be advised to:
 - Keep mobile phones and personal devices in a safe and secure place (**e.g. locked in a cupboard/drawer**) during lesson time.
 - Keep personal mobile phones and devices switched off or set to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
 - Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication, such as 'airdrop', are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
 - Not use personal devices during teaching periods unless written permission has been given by the headteacher such as in emergency circumstances.
 - Ensure that any content bought onto site via personal mobile phones and devices is compatible with their professional role and our behaviour expectations.
- Members of staff are not permitted to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting learners or parents and carers.
 - Any pre-existing relationships or circumstance, which could compromise staff's ability to comply with this, will be discussed with the DSL.
- Staff will only use school provided equipment (not personal devices):
 - to take photos or videos of learners in line with our image use policy.
 - to work directly with learners during lessons/educational activities.
 - to communicate with parents/carers.
- Where remote learning activities take place, staff will use school provided equipment. If this is not available, staff will only use personal devices with prior approval from the headteacher following a formal risk assessment. Staff will follow clear guidance outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy.
- If a member of staff breaches our policy, action will be taken in line with our staff code of conduct and allegations policy.
- If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence using a personal device or mobile phone, the police will be contacted and the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) will be informed in line with our allegations policy.

6. Learners use of mobile and smart technology

- Learners will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology, including mobile phones and personal devices, and will be made aware of behaviour expectations and consequences for policy breaches.
- Safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology will be taught to learners as part of an embedded and progressive safeguarding education approach using age-appropriate sites and resources. Further information is contained within our child protection and relevant specific curriculum policies - e.g. RSE and Computing.
- Mobile phones and/or personal devices will not be used on site by learners.
- Mereworth C.P School expects learners' personal devices and mobile phones to be kept safe and secure when on site. This means that the phone is handed in to the class teacher and then is kept in the office until the pupil leaves the site.
- If a learner needs to contact their parents or carers whilst on site, a school adult will use the landline office phone.
 - Parents are advised to contact their child via the school office.
- If a learner requires access to a personal device in exceptional circumstances, for example medical assistance and monitoring, this will be discussed with the headteacher.
 - Any arrangements regarding access to personal devices in exceptional circumstances will be documented and recorded by the school.
 - Any specific agreements and expectations (including sanctions for misuse) will be provided in writing and agreed by the learner and their parents carers before use is permitted.
- Where learners' mobile phones or personal devices are used when learning at home, this will be in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy.
- Any concerns regarding learners use of mobile technology or policy breaches will be dealt with in accordance with our existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection and behaviour.
 - Staff may confiscate a learner's mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene our child protection, behaviour or anti-bullying policy.
 - Searches of mobile phone or personal devices will be carried out in accordance with our Behaviour & Exclusion policy that is in line with the DfE '*Searching, Screening and Confiscation*' guidance.
 - Learners' mobile phones or devices may be searched by a member of the leadership team, with the consent of the learner or a parent/carer. Content may be deleted or requested to be deleted if it contravenes our policies in line with the DfE '*Searching, Screening and Confiscation*' guidance.
 - Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be held in the office and released to parents/carers.
 - Appropriate sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented in line with our behaviour and exclusion policy.
 - Concerns regarding policy breaches by learners will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate.
 - Where there is a concern that a child is at risk of harm, we will contact respond in line with our child protection policy.

- If there is suspicion that material on a learner's personal device or mobile phone may be illegal, or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be handed over to the police for further investigation.

7. Visitors' use of mobile and smart technology

- Parents/carers and visitors, including volunteers and contractors, are expected to ensure that:
 - mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted. Mobile phones are only permitted for specific purposes e.g. as part of multi-agency working arrangements or with the prior agreement of the Headteacher.
- Appropriate signage and information is in place including posters and information in the safeguarding leaflet for visitors, to inform them of our expectations for safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones.
- Visitors, including volunteers and contractors, who are on site for regular or extended periods of time are expected to use mobile and smart technology in accordance with our acceptable use of technology policy and other associated policies, including child protection.
- If visitors require access to mobile and smart technology, for example when working with learners as part of multi-agency activity, this will be discussed with the headteacher prior to use being permitted.
 - Any arrangements regarding agreed visitor access to mobile/smart technology will be documented and recorded by the school. This may include undertaking appropriate risk assessments if necessary.
- Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns about their use of mobile and smart technology and will inform the DSL of any breaches of our policy.

8. Policy monitoring and review

- Technology evolves and changes rapidly. Mereworth C.P School will review this policy at least annually. The policy will be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local concerns and/or any changes to our technical infrastructure.
- We will regularly monitor internet use taking place via our provided devices and systems and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into our action planning.
- All members of the community will be made aware of how the school will monitor policy compliance via AUPs, staff training, classroom management etc.

9. Responding to policy breaches

- All members of the community are informed of the need to report policy breaches or concerns in line with existing school policies and procedures. This includes: child protection, behaviour policy, Staff code of conduct.
- After any investigations are completed, leadership staff will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes, as required.
- We require staff, parents/carers and learners to work in partnership with us to resolve issues.
- All members of the community will respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
- Learners, parents and staff will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL (or a deputy) will seek advice from the [Education People's Education Safeguarding Service](#) or other agency in accordance with our child protection policy.

Mereworth Community Primary School Social Media Policy



Key Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A. Lavelle, Headteacher

Named Governor with lead responsibility: Mr. M Davis

Date written: September 2021

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: September 2021

Date of next review: September 2022

This policy will be reviewed **at least** annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance or procedures.

1. Policy aims and scope

- This policy has been written by Mereworth C.P School, involving staff, learners and parents/carers, building on The Education People's social media policy template with specialist advice and input as required, taking into account the DfE statutory guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' 2021, [Early Years and Foundation Stage](#) 2021 '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' 2018 and the local [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership](#) (KSCMP) procedures.
- The purpose of this policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all members of Mereworth C.P School community when using social media.
 - Mereworth C.P School recognises that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all learners and staff are protected from potential harm when using social media.
 - As outlined in our child protection policy, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Miss Amanda Lavelle is recognised as having overall responsibility for online safety.
- The policy applies to all use of social media; the term social media includes, but is not limited to, blogs, wikis, social networking sites, forums, bulletin boards, online gaming, apps, video/photo sharing sites, chatrooms and instant messenger apps or other online communication services.
- This policy applies to learners, parents/carers and all staff, including the governing body, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the setting (collectively referred to as "staff" in this policy).

2. Links with other policies

- This policy links with several other policies, practices and action plans, including but not limited to:
 - Anti-bullying policy
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 - Behaviour and Exclusion policy including Searching, screening and confiscation
 - Cameras and image use policy
 - Child protection policy
 - Code of conduct/staff Handbook
 - Confidentiality policy
 - Curriculum policies, such as: Computing, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
 - Data security
 - Mobile and smart technology
 - Online Safety

3. General social media expectations

- All members of the Mereworth C.P School community are expected to engage in social media in a positive and responsible manner.
- All members of the Mereworth C.P School community are advised not to post or share content that may be considered threatening, hurtful or defamatory to others on any social media service.
- We will control learner and staff access to social media whilst using devices and systems on site using the school filtering and monitoring system.
- Inappropriate or excessive use of social media on personal devices during school hours may result in removal of internet access and/or disciplinary action.
- The use of social media or apps, for example as a formal remote learning platform will be robustly risk assessed by the DSL / Headteacher and IT Technician prior to use. Any use will take place in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy.
- Concerns regarding the online conduct of any member of Mereworth C.P School community on social media will be taken seriously. Concerns will be managed in accordance with the appropriate policies, including anti-bullying, allegations against staff, behaviour, home school-agreements, staff Code of Conduct/Staff Handbook, Acceptable Use Policies, and child protection.

4. Staff use of social media

- The use of social media during school hours for personal use is not permitted for staff.
- Safe and professional online behaviour is outlined for all members of staff, including volunteers, as part of our staff code of conduct and acceptable use of technology policy.
- The safe and responsible use of social media sites will be discussed with all members of staff as part of staff induction. Advice will be provided and updated via staff training and additional guidance and resources will be shared with staff as required on a regular basis.
- Any complaint about staff misuse of social media or policy breaches will be taken seriously in line with our child protection and allegations against staff policy.

4.1 Reputation

- All members of staff are advised that their online conduct on social media can have an impact on their role and reputation within the school. Civil, legal or disciplinary action may be taken if staff are found to bring the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.
- All members of staff are advised to safeguard themselves and their privacy when using social media. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Setting appropriate privacy levels on their personal accounts/sites.
 - Being aware of the implications of using location sharing services.
 - Opting out of public listings on social networking sites.

- Logging out of accounts after use.
- Using strong passwords.
- Ensuring staff do not represent their personal views as being that of the school.
- Members of staff are encouraged not to identify themselves as employees of Mereworth C.P School on their personal social networking accounts; this is to prevent information being linked with the setting and to safeguard the privacy of staff members.
- All staff are expected to ensure that their social media use is compatible with their professional role and is in accordance our policies and the wider professional reputation and legal framework. All members of staff are encouraged to carefully consider the information, including text and images, they share and post on social media.
- Information and content that staff members have access to as part of their employment, including photos and personal information about learners and their family members or colleagues, will not be shared or discussed on social media sites.
- Members of staff will notify the leadership team immediately if they consider that any content shared on social media sites conflicts with their role.

4.2 Communicating with learners and their families

- Staff will not use any personal social media accounts to contact learners or their family members.
- All members of staff are advised not to communicate with or add any current or past learners or their family members, as 'friends' on any personal social media accounts.
- Any communication from learners and parents/carers received on personal social media accounts will be reported to the DSL (or deputy) and/or the headteacher.
- Any pre-existing relationships or situations, which mean staff cannot comply with this requirement, will be discussed with the DSL and the headteacher.
- Decisions made and advice provided in these situations will be formally recorded to safeguard learners, members of staff and the setting.
- If ongoing contact with learners is required once they have left the setting, members of staff will be expected to use existing alumni networks, or use official setting provided communication tools.

5. Learners' use of social media

- The use of social media during school hours for personal use is not permitted for learners.
- Mereworth C.P School will empower our learners to acquire the knowledge needed to use social media in a safe, considered and respectful way, and develop their resilience so they can manage and respond to online risks. Safe and appropriate use of social media will be taught to learners as part of an embedded and progressive safeguarding education approach using age-appropriate sites and resources. Further information is contained within our child protection and relevant specific curriculum policies *e.g. RSE and Computing*.

- We are aware that many popular social media sites are not permitted for use by children under the age of 13, or in some cases higher. As such, we will not create accounts for learners under the required age as outlined in the services terms and conditions.
- Learners will be advised:
 - to consider the benefits and risks of sharing personal details or information on social media sites which could identify them and/or their location.
 - to only approve and invite known friends on social media sites and to deny access to others, for example by making profiles private.
 - not to meet any online friends without a parent/carer or other appropriate adults' permission, and to only do so when a trusted adult is present.
 - to use safe passwords.
 - to use social media sites which are appropriate for their age and abilities.
 - how to block and report unwanted communications.
 - how to report concerns on social media, both within the setting and externally.
- Any concerns regarding learners use of social media will be dealt with in accordance with appropriate existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection and behaviour.
- The DSL (or deputy) will respond to social media concerns involving safeguarding or child protection risks in line with our child protection policy.
- Sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented and offered to learners as appropriate, in line with our child protection and behaviour policy. Civil or legal action may be taken if necessary.
- Concerns regarding learners use of social media will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate, particularly when concerning underage use of social media services and games.

6. Policy monitoring and review

- Technology evolves and changes rapidly. Mereworth C.P School will review this policy at least annually. The policy will be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local concerns and/or any changes to our technical infrastructure.
- We will regularly monitor internet use taking place via our provided devices and systems and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into our action planning.
- All members of the community will be made aware of how the school will monitor policy compliance through e.g. AUPs, staff training, classroom management etc.

7. Responding to policy breaches

- All members of the community are informed of the need to report policy breaches or concerns in line with existing school policies and procedures. This includes: e.g. child protection and/or behaviour and exclusion policy.
- After any investigations are completed, leadership staff will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes, as required.
- We require staff, parents/carers and learners to work in partnership with us to resolve issues.
- All members of the community will respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
- Learners, parents and staff will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.
- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL (or a deputy) or headteacher will seek advice from the [Education People's Education Safeguarding Service](#) or other agency in accordance with our child protection policy.