



"Learning is a journey, to be taken together, one step at a time"



Onchan Primary School
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD
email: OnchanEnquiries@Sch.im
tel: 01624 673465

Onchan School Policy on mobile devices (Pupil version)

Introduction

Onchan School has developed a clear policy on allowing pupils to bring mobile technology into school and this policy makes explicit reference to phones, smart watches and developing mobile devices.

Camera Mobile Phones

Camera mobile phones are now part of every-day use and a built-in digital camera enables users to take high resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or on different platforms on social media.

There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against other pupils or/and in some instances, adults.

Smart watches

Emerging technology, that is continually becoming more sophisticated, is being accessed by younger pupils. Many devices have similar, sophisticated technology to that found on mobile phones. Many of the dangers are the same. There is potential for misuse and distraction if they are utilised within the school day. They are easily damaged and this in turn has the potential for large amounts of time being given to the causes and solution both within the school day and beyond it.

Rationale

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone or device to school, **if they walk to and from school without adult supervision**, Onchan School strongly discourages pupils bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential issues raised above.

When a child needs to bring a phone into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent and the phone must be left in the School Office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day by the pupil.

Phones must be clearly marked with an identifying name so that each pupil knows their own phone and it is easily distinguishable.

Parents are advised that Onchan School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds. All devices are brought at a family's own risk.



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Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to have failed to follow this policy, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the Office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office in the usual way. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a permission slip be returned the next day. If this practice continues more than three times, then the school will confiscate the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from a senior teacher.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious matter and contact will be made instantly with Parents.

Should a pupil be found to be using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring a phone into school.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils. Examples of this would be Whatsapp, Snapchat, Tik Tok. The school and Department of Education Sport and Culture (IOM) endorse the use of the Safer Schools App which offers on its platform valuable information to support the appropriate use of mobile technology and its' dangers. The school has developed a programme for teaching appropriate use of technology which is ongoing throughout the academic year.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email. **Pupils will have no access to their devices during school time.**

Parents are encouraged to discuss with children whether bringing a device to school is essential for this reason.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Internet/Esafety policies. This policy will be monitored and reviewed as required but at least every two years.

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Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer

In accordance with our mobile phone policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone to school, please could you sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to bring their phone to the school office first thing in the morning before they go their classroom. Phones will be signed in and out and checked for damage.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone
- Your child’s phone needs to be appropriately marked with their name so that they can recognise it
- Should your child be found using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their phone into school.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Jo Richardson

Head teacher

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MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT

I/we give permission for our child (name) in Year
to bring their mobile phone into school.

My child needs this phone in school each day because:

.....

We have read the policy and understand its’ implications

Signed Date.....

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THANK YOU.



Isle of Man Department of Education

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