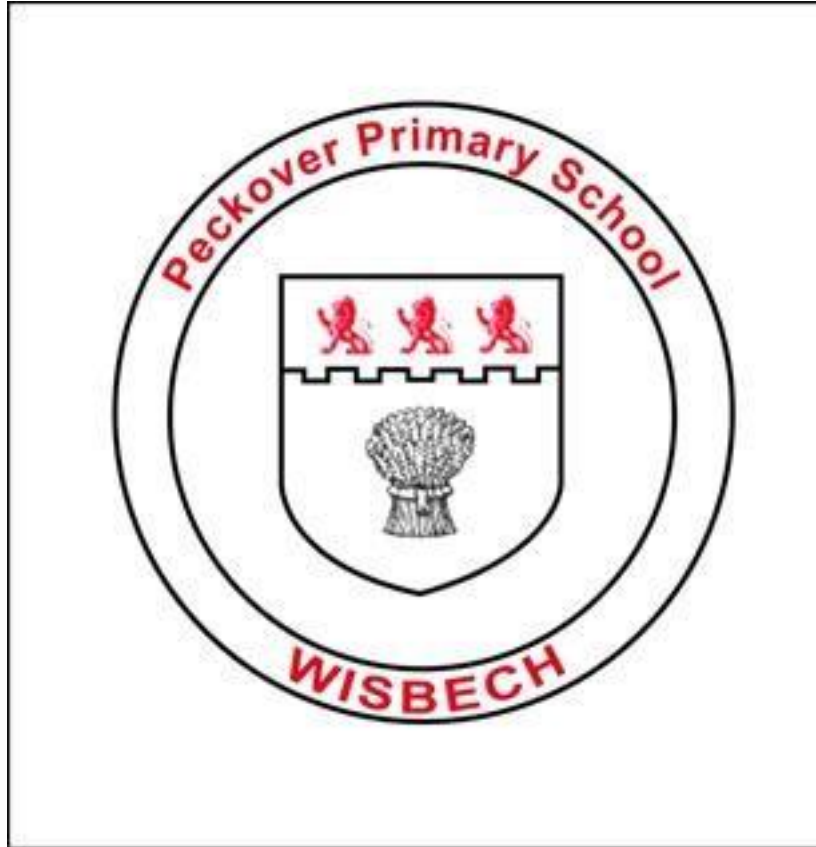


MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Ratified.....

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Review Date: September 2021

PECKOVER SCHOOL recognises that parents may wish their children to have mobile phones for use in cases of emergency. However, mobiles can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. The Governors Body has, therefore, adopted the following policy which will be rigorously enforced.

- Mobile phones should not be generally used on school premises and students should keep them switched off and hand them to their teacher or into the school office until the end of the day for safety reasons.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, students should seek staff permission to use their phone.
- Students who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it subsequently from the school office.
- If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may prove evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation*. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.
- Students are strongly discouraged from bringing camera phones into school because of their higher value.
- Students will bear the responsibility of any losses, if they bring a phone onto the school premises and it gets lost or broken.
- Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in normal disciplinary action to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.

- *There has been a recent court case where a person has received a custodial sentence for showing someone a video on a mobile phone which caused them distress. Parents and students should be aware that such incidents are likely to be treated seriously by the courts.

PECKOVER SCHOOL also recognises that members of staff are likely to bring their own phones into school, but if they do so then they should not use mobile phones during lesson times. Staff should not use phones at all for

- Taking photographs or videos of children in school
- Contacting parents or pupils, unless specifically agreed with the Principal

A mobile phone is to be available for staff to use when they are accompanying a school trip.

Mobile phones brought into the Foundation Stage unit should be kept switched off in the cupboard that only staff members have access to.