

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Sand Street,
Soham,
Cambridgeshire,
CB7 5AA



16th January 2026

Important Update Regarding Mobile Phone Safety and Safeguarding

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5 and 6,

At St Andrew's the safety and well-being of our pupils are our highest priorities. As our older students begin to gain more independence, many start to carry mobile phones for their journey to and from school. While we understand the security this provides for parents, we must ensure that these devices do not compromise the safety of our school community.

A Reminder of Our Rules

To ensure a focused and safe environment, we would like to remind all families of our policy regarding mobile devices:

- **Arrival at School:** All mobile phones must be switched **off** before students enter the school gates.
- **Storage:** Upon entering the classroom, phones must be handed in immediately to the class teacher for safe storage. They are not to be kept in bags or trays.
- **End of Day:** Phones will be returned at the end of the school day. They must remain switched off and inside bags until the student has exited the school grounds.
- **Safeguarding** -under no circumstances can photos be taken whilst on the school site.

Should we find anyone in breach of our rules, we reserve the right to decline permission for the child to have their mobile phone in school.

How You Can Help

We ask for your support in discussing the importance of "digital citizenship" with your child. We have attached a checklist to help with this discussion.

We want to continue allowing Year 5 and 6 students the privilege of bringing phones for their commute, but this relies on everyone following these essential safety protocols.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping our children safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ireland-Curtis

Headteacher

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A practical guide to supporting your child's online journey.

1. Device Setup & Security

- **Set up Parental Controls:** Use tools like *Google Family Link* or *Apple Screen Time* to manage app downloads and monitor usage.
- **Disable Location Services:** Ensure "Ghost Mode" is active on apps and that general location sharing is turned off to protect your child's physical privacy.
- **Review Privacy Settings:** Set all social media profiles or gaming accounts to "**Private**" so only known friends can interact with them.

2. Respectful Communication (Digital Citizenship)

- **The "Front Gate" Rule:** Remind your child never to take photos or videos of others (including friends) without their explicit permission, and never on school grounds.
- **Think Before You Post:** Discuss how once a photo or message is sent, you lose control of it forever. Ask them: "*Would you be happy for a teacher or grandparent to see this?*"
- **Kindness Matters:** Ensure they understand that the school's anti-bullying policy applies to online behaviour just as much as in-person behaviour.

3. Healthy Boundaries

- **Establish "Tech-Free" Zones:** Consider keeping bedrooms and dinner tables phone-free to encourage better sleep and face-to-face interaction.
- **The "Nightly Check-In":** Ensure phones are charged in a communal area (like the kitchen) overnight rather than in the bedroom.
- **Check Age Ratings:** Most social media platforms (TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram) have a **minimum age of 13**. Discuss why these age limits exist.

4. Open Dialogue & Support

- **The "No-Blame" Approach:** Let your child know that if they see something upsetting or make a mistake online, they can come to you without fear of their phone being taken away.
- **Identify Trusted Adults:** Make sure they know they can talk to you, a teacher, or use services like *Childline* if they feel unsafe.

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