

RATIONALE

Increasing numbers of young people carry mobile phones to school. This is becoming a dominant means of communication. There is research underway on using such technologies in a positive way to support learning and teaching. There is a wide range of learning opportunities available through this technology which includes the use of multimedia (still and video, music, texting, gaming etc) and internet software.

People make use of mobile technology for a range of purposes – including the perception that it can improve personal safety. Many parents subscribe to this view. However, there are well documented incidents of children using such technology to bully and harass others. Children carrying mobile phones are frequently targeted by thieves thus jeopardising their personal safety. Inappropriate footage can be shot without consent and can be used to humiliate and bully others. In addition, mobile phones can distract children from tasks and cause disruption for others. Therefore, our policy looks at the advantages and disadvantages of pupil use of mobile technologies.



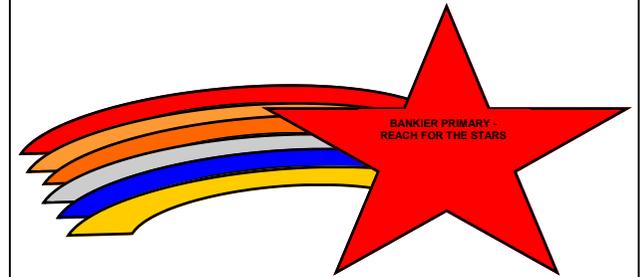
ADVICE FOR PUPILS

If a bullying incident directed at a child occurs using e-mail or mobile phone technology either inside or out of school time:

- Advise the child not to respond to the message
- If possible, secure and preserve any evidence
- Notify parents of all children involved
- Inform the sender's e-mail or mobile phone service provider
- Consider informing the police depending upon the severity or repetitious nature of the offence (s)
- Inform the Local Authority



BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Mobile Technologies Flyer



Enterprise in Education
Gold Standard School



Eco Schools SCOTLAND

HEALTH, SAFETY AND CARE

There are safety procedures and protocols in the school which are regularly updated and these are used in pupils' best interests to ensure their safety and well being. If a very serious emergency occurred in the school, we have emergency management plans that kick into place. On such an occasion, pupils might be tempted to use mobile phones and circumvent our procedures which could ultimately lead to greater danger for everyone. Therefore, we discourage the use of mobile phones in school and ask parents not to allow their children to bring them into school until such times as we are able to offer positive learning experiences using mobile technologies. Should parents and pupils wish to exercise their rights to carry mobile phones, it should be noted that they must be switched off at all times during lessons and the school will not be responsible for any damage, loss, theft or bullying (other than applying sanctions). If mobile phones are causing distraction or disruption, they will be confiscated by the teacher and returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND CARE (cont)

Parents and pupils must understand that the individual pupil is responsible for its care and usage and not staff at the school. In addition, it is not permissible to take photos or video footage with mobile phones on school premises. Any sanctions for inappropriate use, bullying etc will be logged. Persistent breaches will result in an outright ban.

There may be instances, e.g. school trips / residential excursions where pupils are permitted to use mobile phones and to take pictures with them for specific educational purposes but such decisions and contexts require to be made clear by the responsible staff member prior to the event.

Pupils may not download unsuitable material to their phones. It may be an offence to forward such materials.

Mobile technologies cannot be used in any exam situations. All phones are banned from examinations and if one is found, the exam will be forfeited.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Pupils' rights and responsibilities in using mobile technology should be considered in the same way as safe and acceptable use of ICT policies and positive behaviour policies. Therefore, any inappropriate use of this technology would result in the application of a sanction proportionate to the misdemeanour. If it is used for bullying, this would result in a serious incident procedure in keeping with our zero tolerance positive behaviour policy. A lesser misdemeanour would result in a lesser sanction such as a discipline point.

A very serious incident such as so called 'Happy Slapping' where an assault is filmed and distributed to others would result in an exclusion and a report to the police and or social work and or the reporter.

