

# Christ Church & Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools Federation

## Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy

### May 2021



#### **Our Vision**

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus Christ tells us that God is like a generous farmer, and we are like the soil in which he plants his seeds.

At Christ Church and Holy Trinity Schools, we are learning how to be good soil, so that we grow to love God, our neighbour and ourselves and thereby enable every member of our community to flourish.

Each day, we endeavour to face up to all that challenges us, in order to see with our eyes, hear with our ears and understand with our hearts God's Good News for the world and to cultivate the virtues with which to produce an abundant harvest.

#### **Our Federation Mission Statement**

Christ Church and Holy Trinity C of E Primary Schools are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment in which all children have the opportunities to reach their maximum academic and social and spiritual potential. Excellent teaching, learning and relationships are at the heart of all we do.

#### **Children and Mobile Phones**

We ask that parents seriously consider if their child needs a mobile phone when they are 11 or under. It is our experience that children of this age do not need a phone and are not yet ready to cope with the responsibility of owning their own phone and the responsibilities this brings. It is much better to wait until children are getting ready for secondary school to be introduced to using their own phone.

Children who have a mobile phone too early are at risk of cyber bullying, inappropriate contact from strangers and are likely to be engaged in conversation comparing how good or up to date their phone is. The possibilities of misuse are endless.

We have much experience of children who have a phone before and after school concentrating on using the phone and having reduced general safety awareness which could result in road accidents and/or injury if a child is not paying attention to their surroundings.

From September 2021 we ask that children do not bring phones to school at all and if they do have one, they need to leave it at home on school days.

This may have implications for families who wish their child to walk to school alone. You could purchase a personal tracker to put on your child's bag and we have further information in the school office about good ones to purchase. Alternatively, maybe continue to walk your child to school until they go to secondary school which is a good age for them to gain that independence.

In the event of a mobile phone being brought into school it will be given to the school office and parents or carers will be asked to collect it from the school office.

Children are not allowed to take mobile phones on any school trips or residential.



## Children and Social Media

We do not consider it appropriate for primary school aged children to be using social media, messaging apps or social networking websites.

Some examples of these are:

Snapchat (13 is the required age)

Instagram (13 is the required age)

House Party (13 is the required age)

TikTok (13 years required age)

Facebook (13 years is the required age)

WhatsApp (16 years is the required age)

Inappropriate use of the internet will be at home as we allow no access to any of these sites at school.

School staff have no jurisdiction to deal with this and cannot investigate it. Please do not allow your children to use these sites and then you will not need to deal with the very serious associated issues that you and your child are extremely likely to encounter.

Social networking abuse that occurs will be outside school hours and is a private matter for the individuals concerned and not something that the school can deal with. Any such issues should be raised with the police and the social networking site directly.

It should be noted that in many cases a child may put themselves at considerable risk due to the misuse of social media accidentally. e.g., giving personal details, publishing photographs, etc. to a 'friend' who then distributes this information more widely. They need to be fully aware of this risk. The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/carers.

We will offer regular internet safety training sessions with children and parents in school, but the expectation will be that the social media aspects of this are in preparation for the children when they go to secondary school.

Signed: *Avis Hawkins*

*May 2021*



<b>Name of School</b>	Christ Church & Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools
<b>Policy review Date</b>	May 2021
<b>Date of next Review</b>	May 2023
<b>Who reviewed this policy? Ratified by the Full Governing Body</b>	Full Governing Body

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