

# Sissinghurst Church of England VA Primary



## Our School Vision

### Let Your Light Shine – Matthew 5:16

At Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School in partnership with the Church, parents, and wider community, we offer an inclusive learning environment to nurture potential that enables all to be successful. Vibrant, rich curricular opportunities equip everyone with knowledge and skills to question, discuss and challenge.

Everyone's talents are discovered and celebrated. We foster spiritual growth and reflection to find wonder and joy in the World together. As light bearers, our shared responsibility is to encourage each other to be compassionate and kind so we can all shine with integrity, humility and wisdom. We find courage to act when we know there is darkness, illuminating the World with God's light and hope.

We are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian values of:

Kindness Forgiveness Courage Service

Policy Title:	Mobile and Smart Technology Policy
Date:	January 2026
Review Date:	January 2027
Reviewed by:	Sarah Holman Headteacher
Approved by:	FGB

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Sarah Holman

Governor with Safeguarding responsibility – Emily Hill

## 1. Policy aims and scope

- This policy has been written by Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School building on Kent County Councils LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service mobile and smart technology policy template, with specialist advice and input as required.
- It takes into account the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)' (KCSIE), [Early Years and Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' (WTSC), the DfE non-statutory guidance '[Behaviour in Schools Advice for headteachers and school staff](#)', '[Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)', '[Mobile Phones in Schools](#)' and the local [Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership](#) (KSCMP) procedures.
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- The purpose of this policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all members of the Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School community when using mobile devices and smart technology.
  - Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School recognises that online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and acknowledges its duty to ensure that all pupils and staff are protected from potential harm when using mobile and smart technology.
  - As outlined in our Child Protection Policy, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Sarah Holman, Headteacher, is recognised as having overall responsibility for online safety.
- This policy applies to all access to and use of all mobile and smart technology on site; this includes mobile phones and personal devices such as tablets, e-readers, games consoles and wearable technology, such as 'smart watches and fitness trackers, which facilitate communication or have the capability to record sound or images.
- This policy applies to pupils, parents/carers and all staff, including the governing body, leadership team, teachers, support staff, external contractors, visitors, volunteers and other individuals who work for, or provide services on behalf of the setting (collectively referred to as "staff" in this policy).

## 2. Links with other policies

- This policy links with several other policies, practices and action plans, including but not limited to:
  - Anti-bullying policy
  - Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)
  - Behaviour policy
  - Image use policy
  - Child protection policy
  - Staff Handbook / Code of conduct
  - Confidentiality Policy
  - Curriculum policies, such as: Computing, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
  - Data security
  - Social media
  - Searching, screening and confiscation

## 3. Safe use of mobile and smart technology expectations

- Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School recognises that use of mobile and smart technologies is part of everyday life for many pupils, staff and parents/carers.
- Electronic devices of any kind that are brought onto site are the responsibility of the user. All members of the Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School community are advised to:
  - take steps to protect their mobile phones or personal devices from loss, theft or damage; we accept no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of such items on our premises.
  - use passwords/PIN numbers to ensure that unauthorised access, calls or actions cannot be made on their phones or devices.

- Personal Mobile phones and personal devices are not permitted to be used in specific areas on site, such as classrooms, toilets, corridors, store cupboards, play grounds, field, Farm or Forest school.
- The sending of abusive or inappropriate messages or content, including via personal smart devices and mobile phones is forbidden by any member of the community; any breaches will be dealt with in line with our anti-bullying, managing allegations against staff including low level concerns, behaviour and child protection policies.
- All members of the Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School community are advised to ensure that their mobile phones and personal devices do not contain any content which may be offensive, derogatory or illegal, or which would otherwise contravene our behaviour or child protection policies.

#### **4. Staff use of mobile and smart technology**

- Members of staff at our wraparound care services will be issued with a work phone in addition to their work email address, where contact with parents/carers is required and the school phones cannot be used. The school mobile phone will only be accessed or used by members of staff. The mobile phone will always be used in accordance with our staff code of conduct / behaviour policy, acceptable use of technology policy and other relevant policies. Staff are aware that all school devices are monitored for safeguarding reasons and to ensure policy compliance.
- Members of staff will ensure that use of any mobile and smart technology, including personal phones and mobile devices, will take place in accordance with the law, as well as relevant Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School policy and procedures, such as confidentiality, child protection, data security staff code of conduct and Acceptable Use Policies.
- Staff will be advised to:
  - Keep mobile phones and personal devices switched off (or silent and unseen) and in a safe and secure place e.g. locked in a locker/drawer or in a bag or pocket out of sight during lesson time.
  - Keep personal mobile phones and devices switched off or set to 'silent' mode during lesson times.
  - Ensure that Bluetooth or other forms of communication, such as 'airdrop', are hidden or disabled during lesson times.
  - Not use personal devices during teaching periods unless written permission has been given by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher such as in emergency circumstances.
  - Ensure that any content bought onto site via personal mobile phones and devices is compatible with their professional role and our behaviour expectations.
- Members of staff are not recommended to use their own personal phones or devices for contacting pupils or parents and carers. If a personal device is used numbers must be withheld and Studybugs contact or work email address only used.
  - Any pre-existing relationships or circumstance, which could compromise staff's ability to comply with this, will be discussed with the DSL and Headteacher
- Staff responsible for updating the school Twitter (now X) page (by agreement of the Headteacher) will do so in line with the schools child protection policy, social media policy, Image use policy, Acceptable Use policy and staff code of conduct. Images taken for the purpose of updating the Twitter or website pages must not contain pictures of children's faces if correct permissions are not in place.
- Staff will only use Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School provided equipment (not personal devices):
  - to take photos or videos of pupils in line with our image use policy.
  - to work directly with pupils during lessons/educational activities.
  - to communicate with parents/carers.
- Where remote learning activities take place, staff will use Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School provided equipment. If this is not available, staff will only use personal devices with prior approval from the Headteacher following a formal risk assessment. Staff will follow clear guidance outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy and remote learning AUP.
- If a member of staff breaches our policy, action will be taken in line with our staff Code of conduct and managing allegations against staff including low level concerns procedure.

- If a member of staff is thought to have illegal content saved or stored on a mobile phone or personal device or have committed a criminal offence using a personal device or mobile phone, the police will be contacted and the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) will be informed in line with our allegations policy.

## 5. Pupils use of mobile and smart technology

- Pupils will be educated regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology, including mobile phones and personal devices, and will be made aware of behaviour expectations and consequences for policy breaches.
- Safe and appropriate use of mobile and smart technology will be taught to pupils as part of an embedded and progressive safeguarding education approach using age-appropriate sites and resources. Further information is contained within our child protection and relevant specific curriculum policies please see Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School RSE and Computing Policies.
- Mobile phones and/or personal devices will not be used on site by pupils.
- Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School expects pupils' personal devices and mobile phones to be kept safe and secure when on site. This means any devices brought onto the site by pupils should be immediately handed into the school office at the start of day and should be switched off.
- If a learner needs to contact their parents or carers whilst on site, they will be allowed to use the office phone whilst supported by an adult.
  - Parents are advised to contact their child via the school office.
- If a learner requires access to a personal device in exceptional circumstances, for example medical assistance and monitoring, this will be discussed with the Headteacher prior to use being permitted.
  - Any arrangements regarding access to personal devices in exceptional circumstances will be documented and recorded by Sissinghurst VA C of E Primary School on CPOMS
  - Any specific agreements and expectations (including sanctions for misuse) will be provided in writing and agreed by the child and their parents / carers before use is permitted.
- Where pupils' mobile phones or personal devices are used when learning at home, this will be in accordance with our *Acceptable Use Policy*, *Remote Learning AUP* and Behaviour Policy.
- Any concerns regarding pupils use of mobile technology or policy breaches will be dealt with in accordance with our existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection and behaviour.
  - Staff may confiscate a learner's mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene our child protection, behaviour or anti-bullying policy.
  - Searches of mobile phone or personal devices will be carried out in accordance with our policy, informed by the DFE document: [Searching, Screening and Confiscation'](#)
  - Pupils' mobile phones or devices may be searched by a member of the leadership team, with the consent of the learner or a parent/carer. Content may be deleted or requested to be deleted if it contravenes our policies, informed by the DFE document: [Searching, Screening and Confiscation'](#)
  - Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be held in a secure drawer in the school office, and released to parents/carers at the end of the day.
  - Appropriate sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented in line with our behaviour policy.
  - Concerns regarding policy breaches by pupils will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate.
  - Where there is a concern that a child is at risk of harm, we will contact the appropriate agencies and respond in line with our child protection policy.

### 6.1 Screening, searching and confiscation of electronic devices

- Electronic devices, including mobile phones, can contain files or data which relate to an offence, or which may cause harm to another person. This includes, but is not limited to, indecent images of children, pornography, abusive messages, images or videos, or evidence relating to suspected criminal behaviour.
- Where there are any concerns regarding pupils' use of mobile or smart technology or policy breaches, they will be dealt with in accordance with our existing policies, including anti-bullying, child protection including online safety and our behaviour policies.

- Pupils in Sissinghurst Primary school should not have their mobile phones on their person, they should be handed into the office on arrival and switched off however, staff may confiscate a mobile phone or device if they believe it is being used to contravene our child protection or behaviour policy.
- Mobile phones and devices that have been confiscated will be held securely in the school office in the safe until the end of the day and then released to parents/carers.
- Where a concern involves potentially indecent images/videos of children, including images/videos generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI), on a child's personal mobile or smart technology device, staff will respond in line with our child protection policy; they will confiscate devices, avoid looking at any content and refer the incident to the DSL (or deputy) urgently.
- If there is suspicion that data or files on a child's personal mobile or smart technology device may be illegal, or may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be confiscated and handed over to the police for further investigation.

Note: the following content reflects the DfE '[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)' guidance and is applicable to schools only.

- If deemed to be necessary and appropriate, searches of mobile phones or personal devices may be carried out in accordance with our behaviour policy and the DfE '[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)' guidance. In line with the DfE '[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)' guidance, the headteacher or a member of staff authorised by the headteacher can carry out a search and examine any data or files on an electronic device confiscated as a result of a search, if there is good reason to do so. This would be where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting the device or content on the device poses a risk to staff and/or pupils, is prohibited, or identified in the school's behaviour policy for which a search can be made or is evidence in relation to an offence. The headteacher can authorise individual members of staff to search for specific items, or all items set out in the school's behaviour policy.
- Staff will respond in line with our child protection policy and follow the most appropriate safeguarding response if they find images, data or files on a pupil's electronic device that they reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) will always be informed of any searching incidents where authorised members of staff have reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil was in possession of prohibited items, as identified in our behaviour policy.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) will be involved without delay if staff believe a search of a pupil's device has revealed a safeguarding risk.
- In exceptional circumstances and in accordance with our behaviour policy and the DfE '[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)' guidance, the headteacher or authorised members of staff may examine or erase data or files if there is a good reason to do so.
- The DfE '[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)' guidance states (77 – 79)
  - In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to examine images, data or files, the headteacher or an authorised member of staff will need to reasonably suspect that the images, data or files on the device has been, or could be used, to cause harm, undermine the safe environment of the school and disrupt teaching, or be used to commit an offence.
  - In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to erase any images, data or files from the device, the member of staff should consider whether the material found may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. In those instances, the data or files should not be deleted, and the device must be handed to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable.
  - If the data or files are not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, the headteacher or an authorised member of staff may delete the images, data or files if the continued existence of the data or file is likely to continue to cause harm to any person and the pupil and/or the parent refuses to delete the data or files themselves.
- If the headteacher or a member of staff finds any data or files that they suspect might constitute a specified offence, they will be delivered to the police as soon as is reasonably practicable.

## **6. Visitors' use of mobile and smart technology**

- Parents/carers and visitors, including volunteers and contractors, are expected to ensure that their mobile phones and smart devices are switched off (or to silent) and are stored in their bags. Mobile phones and smart devices are not allowed to be removed from bags or used on the school premises during times when children are present on site.
- Exceptions to this would be when the Headteacher or other senior member of staff has indicated that use of mobile phones is permitted to take photographs or videos of school events such as assemblies, plays, sports day. On such occasions the teacher leading the event will indicate when mobile technology is permitted and will always remind parents that images should never be shared via social media or any other sharing platform.
- Appropriate signage and information is in place in our reception area and in the school building to inform visitors of our expectations for safe and appropriate use of personal devices and mobile phones.
- Visitors, including volunteers and contractors, who are on site for regular or extended periods of time are expected to use mobile and smart technology in accordance with our acceptable use of technology policy and other associated policies, including child protection.
- If visitors require access to mobile and smart technology, for example when working with pupils as part of multi-agency activity, this will be discussed with a member of the SLT prior to use being permitted.
  - Any arrangements regarding agreed visitor access to mobile/smart technology will be documented and recorded by the school. This may include undertaking appropriate risk assessments if necessary.
- Members of staff are expected to challenge visitors if they have concerns about their use of mobile and smart technology and will inform the DSL or member the SLT of any breaches of our policy.

## **7. Policy monitoring and review**

- Technology evolves and changes rapidly. Sissinghurst CE VA Primary will review this policy at least annually. The policy will be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local concerns and/or any changes to our technical infrastructure.
- We monitor internet use taking place via our provided devices and systems and evaluate online safety mechanisms to ensure that this policy is consistently applied. Full information about the appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place are detailed in our Child Protection Policy. Any issues identified as part of the implementation of our monitoring approaches will be incorporated into our action planning.
- All members of the community will be made aware of how Sissinghurst CE VA Primary will monitor policy compliance: Regular AUP reviews and CPD, Appraisal Process, Record Keeping, Audit of technology and usage

## **8. Responding to policy breaches**

- All members of the community are informed of the need to report policy breaches or concerns in line with existing Sissinghurst CE VA Primary policies and procedures. This includes:
  - Child Protection Policy
  - Behaviour Policy
  - AUP policy
- Where pupils breach this policy:
  - appropriate sanctions and/or pastoral/welfare support will be implemented in line with our behaviour policy.
  - concerns will be shared with parents/carers as appropriate.
  - we will respond in line with our child protection policy, if there is a concern that a child is at risk of harm.
- After any investigations are completed, leadership staff will debrief, identify lessons learnt and implement any policy or curriculum changes, as required.
- We require staff, parents/carers and pupils to work in partnership with us to resolve issues.
- All members of the community will respect confidentiality and the need to follow the official procedures for reporting concerns.
- Pupils, parents and staff will be informed of our complaints procedure and staff will be made aware of the whistleblowing procedure.

- If we are unsure how to proceed with an incident or concern, the DSL (or a deputy) or member of the SLT will seek advice from the local authority or other agencies, as appropriate, in accordance with our child protection policy.