ASHFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Electronic Devices/Mobile Phone policy

(This policy is part of, and is an extract from, our Behaviour Policy)

Electronic devices/Mobile Phones

Allowing access to mobile phones in school introduces complexity and risks, including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse, and can be a detriment to learning. Our rules on the use of mobile phones are as follows:

Y5 and Y6 pupils may bring a mobile phone to school if necessary but this must be handed in to a staff member for storage during the day. The phone will then be collected by the pupil at home time. The school does not accept any responsibility for these devices while in storage. 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.

As with all prohibited or illegal items, staff will first consider the appropriate safeguarding response if they find images, data or files on an electronic device that they reasonably suspect are likely to put a person at risk.

If the member of staff conducting the search suspects they may find an indecent image of a child (sometimes known as nude or semi-nude images), the member of staff should never intentionally view the image, and must never copy, print, share, store or save such images. When an incident might involve an indecent image of a child and/or video, the member of staff will confiscate the device, avoid looking at the device and refer the incident to the DSL (or deputy). Reference will be made to the school's Child Protection Procedures and DfE statutory guidance Keeping children safe in education.

The UK Council for Internet Safety also provides the following guidance to support school staff and DSLs: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people.

If a member of staff finds any image, data or file that they suspect might constitute a specified offence, then they must be delivered to the Police as soon as is reasonably practicable. In exceptional circumstances members of staff may dispose of the image or data if there is a good reason to do so. In determining a 'good reason' to examine or erase the data or files, the member of staff and/or DSL must refer to the DfE advice for schools on Searching, Screening and Confiscation