

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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RCSAT Executive Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Badger

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8th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mobile Phone Usage / Agreement

At Bunbury, we take safe technology use extremely seriously and work with all our children at an age appropriate level to ensure they learn to navigate such an ever-changing landscape safely and responsibly.

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of our children particularly in Year 5 and 6 bringing mobile phones into school.

We understand that these devices provide the children with a way of communicating with their family before and after school when necessary. In Year 6, for example, we have a number of children who walk to school and return home unaccompanied.

Some of our Year 6, because they walk home unaccompanied, do bring a mobile phone into school. In order to do this, we are asking parents to complete a 'Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Agreement' on school spider, which outlines our rules for pupils having a mobile phone on our site. This is carefully monitored. Should there be a breach of this agreement, then we will review whether your child is able to continue to bring a device into school. During the breach the device will be kept with the Principal until parents are able to come into school to collect it. Mobile phones **MUST** be handed in to the class teacher on arrival at school to be stored securely during the school day. Under no circumstances should these devices be taken out and used on our school site or when **entering/leaving the school site. This includes the school playground, school drive and for those children travelling on the school bus the journey to and from school.**

Should a child lose or damage their device, whilst we are sympathetic, we are not liable for any loss or expense to replace or repair this.

We know that mobile phones can be a valuable and important resource for our children; we frequently discuss safe use of these devices, both in general and as part of our online safety lessons. This agreement is an extension of this key aspect of online safety, as we want the children to develop sensible habits surrounding their usage and to be aware that there are times where using a device is not appropriate particularly when unsupervised or around younger pupils.

We also know that using mobile phones can cause a lot of upset – especially when the children who have them don't have the maturity to make good decisions and use them sensibly. Often disagreements at school which would by the next day have settled down – become exacerbated by texting out of school and then school is required to intervene to sort out the repercussions of this. They can also be used to access sites which are not appropriate for any child in Primary school.

Many thanks for your continued support as we work together to ensure all our children remain safe online and use technology appropriately and respectfully.

Yours faithfully

Nic Badger

Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary
Executive Head Teacher of RCSAT

