



QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

Pupil Mobile Phone Policy

Person Responsible: Headteacher

Last reviewed on: 19 April 2024

Next review due by: 19 April 2025

Created: July 2021

Revisions: Annually; July 2022;

Quorn Hall School is part of Newcome Education, which is owned and operated by Cavendish Education.

This policy is one of a series of school policies that, taken together, are designed to form a comprehensive statement of the school's aspiration to provide an outstanding education for each of its pupils and of the mechanisms and procedures in place to achieve this. Accordingly, this policy should be read alongside these policies. In particular it should be read in conjunction with the policies covering equality and diversity, Health and Safety, safeguarding and child protection.

All of these policies have been written, not simply to meet statutory and other requirements, but to enable and evidence the work that the whole school is undertaking to ensure the implementation of its core values:

- **'Levelling up'** – We want our children to be able to meet appropriate milestones and age related expectations, socially, emotionally and academically.
- **Thrive not survive** – We want our children to thrive in school and society, not just survive their adverse childhood experiences.
- **Confidence** – Develop confidence in their abilities and self image/esteem as learners and members of society.
- **Creativity** – Foster individuality and celebrate differences and create a compassionate and accepting environment. Provide tools that give pupils options, voice, and choice in order to enable them to be creative.
- **Competence** – In their ability to self-regulate and interact with different types of people and overcome the challenges and traumas from the past.
- **Character** – Develop resilience so they see failures or negative situations as a learning opportunity by implementing a growth mindset approach.
- **Compassion** – For pupils and the challenging circumstances they have encountered in both their personal and educational lives.
- **Care** – To overtly demonstrate to pupils that adults do care about them and their futures – every day is a fresh start.

While this current policy document may be referred to elsewhere in Quorn Hall School documentation, including particulars of employment, it is non-contractual.

In the school's policies, unless the specific context requires otherwise, the word "parent" is used in terms of Section 576 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a biological parent but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child. Department for Education guidance [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility updated August 2023](#) considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not

- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person – this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The school employs the services of, among others, the following consulting companies to ensure regulatory compliance and the implementation of best practice:

- Peninsula BrightHR
- Peninsula BusinessSafe (Health and Safety)
- Atlantic Data/Due Diligence Checking Ltd (DBS)
- Educare / National College (online CPD)
- SchoolPro (data protection)
- Marsh Commercial (insurance)
- Neotas (Online searches / Social Media checks)
- VWV (legal)

Where this policy refers to ‘employees’, the term refers to any individual that is classified as an employee or a worker, working with and on behalf of the school (including volunteers and contractors).

Quorn Hall School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, pupils and visitors to share this commitment.

All outcomes generated by this document must take account of and seek to contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at Quorn Hall School.

The policy documents of Quorn Hall School are revised and published periodically in good faith. They are inevitably subject to revision. On occasions a significant revision, although promulgated in school separately, may have to take effect between the re-publication of a set of policy documents. Care should therefore be taken to ensure, by consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, that the details of any policy document are still effectively current at a particular moment.

This Policy applies to pupils at Quorn Hall School and is available on our website. It should be read in conjunction with our Positive Behaviour Support Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Counter-Bullying Policy.

Rationale:

Camera mobile phones are now the norm and a built-in digital camera enables users to take high-resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or in chat rooms. There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils and/or teachers.

Parents, visitors in school policy

Adults, visitors or volunteers in school should only use their mobile phones within the confines of the school office or staff room. Personal cameras and mobile phone cameras should not be used to take pictures of children.

Pupil Policy

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school to use while in transition to and from school, the child must hand their phone in to a member of staff upon arrival. However, parents are advised that Quorn Hall School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds. Quorn Hall School discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential safeguarding risk.

Pupils who benefit from listening to music as part of their self-regulation will be offered alternatives by the SENCO e.g. an MP3 player.

As part of the curriculum (IT and PSHE), pupils will learn about ways to manage risks including how to report cyber-bullying. The school participates in events such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week, where key messages are reinforced. The staff team will also use naturally occurring opportunities to reinforce messages about safer ways to respond e.g. if a friend sends an indecent image. As part of PSHE and IT lessons, all pupils will continue to learn about keeping themselves safe online and the risks associated with being online, including criminal offences such as sexting.

When a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team or SLT and the phone will not be returned and a letter will be sent home to parents requesting permission for the phone to be returned the next day.

If pupils continue to bring their mobile phones into school and refuse to hand them in, then the school will not return the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from school in person.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be dealt with accordingly in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti-bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Internet/E Safety policies.