



Ox Close Federation Mobile Phone Contract

Ox Close Federation is committed to maintaining the safety and well-being all of our children, which includes their use of devices such as mobile phones. We do not permit mobile phones to be brought into school, a rule that we have in place for safeguarding reasons: content cannot be managed or filtered and the taking of photographs needs to be strictly controlled according to parental wishes.

However, we also recognize that there may be occasional exceptional circumstances where it is helpful for a pupil to bring a mobile phone to school, such as walking home unaccompanied or being collected by a different family member. Whilst we do not permit the use of these phones during the school day, we will consider a parental request for a pupil to be able to access a phone before or after school (NOT merely because a pupil wants to have their phone).

In these circumstances, we ask that parents or carers to read the following agreement and sign the request, stating the specific reasons for a phone to be in school.

Our Mobile Phone Rules

- All pupils bringing a phone to school must have a valid reason for doing so and must have returned this agreement.
- The Federation will continue to help children learn about staying safe online, but recognise that the primary responsibility for online safety lies at home with parents/carers. The Federation will seek to work with families to help them to encourage children to adopt safe use of mobile technology.
- Children should be reminded that they are not permitted to take photographs or videos of people without their consent and they should not be taking these on the way to or from school. This is because some of our students are not allowed to have their photo taken.
- All phones should be **turned off and handed into the office or class teacher as soon as children arrive in school each day.**
- The Federation cannot accept responsibility for damage or loss of a mobile phone brought into school.
- The Federation has the right to confiscate or search a mobile phone if there is cause for concern. In the unlikely event of needing to do this, we will endeavor to contact a parent or carer. As part of this agreement, your child should agree to unlock the phone if required by a member of staff.
- **Children not following these rules will not be allowed to bring a phone into school. Any phone brought in without permission will be confiscated and only returned to a parent or carer.**
- The use of Smart Watches is permitted but parents are responsible for ensuring that settings are in place so that the device is not used for phone calls and messages during the school day.

Further information about being safe online, such as the use of parental controls and supervised use of social media, can be found on www.internetmatters.org

Please sign and return the agreement attached.

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Name: _____

Reason for needing mobile phone in school:

Parent/Carer: I confirm that I have explained the school rules regarding mobile phones to my child and confirm that they may take a mobile phone into school on that basis.

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pupil: I understand and agree to follow the school mobile phone rules.

Pupil Signature: _____ Date: _____