

## Primary Pupil Mobile Phone Policy

<b>Drafted By</b>	<b>Executive Board</b>
<b>Review By</b>	Trust Board
<b>Status &amp; Review Cycle</b>	2 Years
<b>Next Review Date</b>	Spring 2028

## Creating a Safe, Calm and Focused School Environment

From September 2026, our school will become a smartphone free environment for pupils. This reflects national guidance (DfE, 2024 and Jan 2026) and growing evidence that smartphones can distract children, affect wellbeing, and create safeguarding concerns in schools (UNESCO, 2023). The Department for Education (DfE) has published revised guidance on the pupil use of mobile phones in schools which comes alongside the government's announcement that from April 2026, schools are 'expected to be mobile phone-free environments.' In addition, the DfE has launched a consultation aimed at mapping out next steps to 'boost children's wellbeing online' and ensure they develop a 'healthy relationship' with smartphones and social media.

### Key points at a glance:

- Pupils are not allowed smartphones and smart watches in school.
- Only basic "brick phones" (calls and texts only) may be brought into school — and only by pupils who walk/travel via public transport to and from school without an adult.
- All phones must be switched off before entering the school site at the gate.
- Phones must be handed in on arrival and will be stored securely until home time in the school office.
- Any child using, showing, or turning on a phone during the school day will have it kept by the school until collected by a parent/carer.
- Exceptions will only apply to agreed medical or safeguarding plans.

### Why are we doing this?

Our aim is to work together with families to encourage safer use of mobile phones and to consider the impact of screen time on children's sleep habits and to promote and support children's wellbeing.

National and international evidence shows that smartphones in schools can:

- Distract children from learning.
- Increase risks of online harm and cyberbullying.
- Affect children's wellbeing and social development.

### Who may bring a phone?

Our pupils who:

- Are in Years 5 or 6 who travel to or from school independently, walking without an adult or via public transport. This does not include those who just walk to the gate.
- Those who have a medical condition which requires the use of a mobile phone to administer medicine.

## What counts as a 'Brick Phone'?

A suitable phone:

- Can make calls
- Can send texts
- Cannot access the internet, apps, games, music, cameras, or social media.

## How the system will work

### **Morning arrival**

- Phones must be switched off before entering the gate.
- Children hand their phone to staff at the designated collection point.
- Phones are stored in the school office.

### **During the school day**

- Children do not have access to phones at any time.

### **Home time**

- Phones are returned to children at the end of the school day.
- Phones must remain switched off until they leave the school site.

## Medical or Safeguarding needs

In some circumstances, supporting a pupil with their medical condition can involve the use of a mobile phone. For example, pupils with diabetes might use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar levels. Where mobile phone use allows pupils to manage their medical condition effectively, arrangements will be made for children whose parents are able to evidence that they require specialist devices as part of a medical or safeguarding plan.

## Misuse of phones

If a child uses or turns on their phone during the school day:

- The phone will be taken from them and kept in the Headteacher's office.
- A parent or carer must collect it.

## Use of mobile phones outside the school day

Mobile phones/electronic devices are not permitted by pupils on residential trips or trips outside of the normal school day. This is to ensure that pupils' educational experience on a school trip is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones and safeguarding is upheld.