



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Date policy accepted by the Governing Body:	Autumn 2023
Date for review:	Autumn 2026

Mobile phones, and particularly smartphones with camera capability, have become increasingly popular in the past decade. We recognise that some of our pupils are likely to own a mobile phone by the time they leave School. We also recognise that many older pupils will travel to and from school independently, which is an important preparation for secondary school. Parents may wish them to have a mobile phone in order to make contact in an emergency.

However, smartphones are valuable items and there is a risk that they will be lost or damaged, which school cannot take responsibility for. There are also safeguarding risks in relation to pupils videoing or photographing other pupils, unrestricted access to the internet or social media on school premises, and the potential for bullying or inappropriate text messages to be sent between pupils. We want to prepare our children for their digital future so their cup can overflow and share all the amazing things they are doing – but not at the expense of another person's happiness or rights.

To support pupils' developing independence, but to protect all pupils, the school has adopted the following policy on the use of mobile phones by pupils:

- *Pupils must give their phone to their class teacher first thing in the morning, where it will be kept in the classroom until home time.*
- *Phones must be turned off at all times on school premises, including in the playground before and after school.*
- *Parents must be advised that **the school accepts no responsibility** for the loss of or damage to mobile phones.*
- *Parents are encouraged to make sure that all phones have suitable cases and screen protectors.*
- *Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing valuable phones to be brought into school.*
- *Pupils' phones must be clearly marked with their names.*
- *Parents are readily able to contact the school office in an emergency or to get a message to their children, and will be reminded of this if necessary.*

If a pupil is found to be using a phone on school premises during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the school office and the pupil's parents will be notified of the misuse and asked to come into school to collect the phone. It will not be returned to the child.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or videos of other pupils on a phone on school premises, these must be deleted in the presence of a member of staff. The phone will be confiscated and returned to parents when they come to collect. It will not be returned to the child.

Any inappropriate use of a phone on school premises (e.g. sending unkind or inappropriate messages, accessing inappropriate content on the Internet) is a serious matter which will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

The school reserves the right to withdraw permission for a pupil to bring a mobile phone to school if the above rules are broken.