



Mobile phone policy

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1. Introduction and aims

At St Mary's we recognise that mobile phones and similar devices, including smartphones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents/carers and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Ensure our environment is mobile phone-free by default

- Ensure the safe, responsible and lawful use of mobile phones, where applicable
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and visitors
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar devices.

The policy does not cover staff use of mobile phones which is covered in the Staff Code of Conduct and Staff Acceptable Use policy.

2. Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of section 36 of the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026](#), and the Department for Education (DfE)'s [mobile phone guidance](#) and [behaviour guidance](#). Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) the Department for Education's non-statutory [mobile phone guidance](#) and [behaviour guidance](#). Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are required to actively enforce this policy and challenge any breach of mobile phone restrictions immediately and consistently.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

Staff will address any questions or concerns from parents/carers quickly and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

Pupils must not use mobile phones throughout the school day. Parents/carers are able to request (using the request form at appendix 1) that their child brings a mobile phone to school under the following circumstances:

- If a pupil is walking to or from school without parents (years 5/6) or for other exceptional reasons; (please state the reasons clearly on the form), AND

- The phone must be handed in to the office on arrival and must be switched off.

The phone is left at the owner's own risk and school is not responsible for loss or damage. Phones must not be taken on school trips/visits. Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the Headteacher or DSL does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site.' Mobile phones include smartwatches.

4.1 Sanctions

If a child brings a mobile phone into school without permission, the phone will be confiscated and must then be collected from the Headteacher by a parent (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006)

The school will also consider whether:

- There are any relevant special circumstances (for example, age, religious requirements, special educational needs, disability)
- The pupil's behaviour may indicate they may be suffering, or at risk of, harm. If this is suspected, staff will follow the appropriate procedure set out in Part 1 of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governance committee members and contractors) must adhere to this policy.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's at a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media any images or videos that include children other than their own
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents/carers
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for reporting any breaches of the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above, to a member of staff.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on their personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Schools that confiscate phones from pupils become responsible for the phone, and can be held responsible for loss, theft, or damage.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the Headteacher's office in a locked cabinet.

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

6. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority and any other relevant organisations

If there are any concerns regarding this policy, these should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher in a timely manner.

Appendix 1: Request for permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school

Child's Full Name:

Class:

Parent/Carer's Name:

Reason for bringing a mobile phone into school:

Please give a specific reason, for example: *My child walks home from school independently.*

Parent/Carer Agreement

I understand that my child is not permitted to use or keep their mobile phone with them during the school day.

I understand that:

- ☐ My child will hand their mobile phone into the school office when they arrive at school.
- ☐ The phone will be securely stored in the school office during the school day.
- ☐ My child will collect the phone from the office at the end of the school day.
- ☐ My child will not use the phone during the school day unless given specific permission by a member of staff.
- ☐ I have provided a genuine reason for my child needing to bring a mobile phone into school.
- ☐ I understand that the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage of mobile phone brought into school.

**Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must abide by the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.
The school reserves the right revoke permission if a pupil does not abide by the policy.**

Parent/Carer Signature:

Date:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Permission approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date received: _____

Staff Name/Initials: _____

Notes:

Appendix 2: Template mobile phone information slip for visitors

Use of mobile phones and similar devices in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the staffroom.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.

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