



Parklands
Community Primary
School

**Mobile Phone and Smart Devices
Policy**

Date of Approval: June 2025

Review Date: September 2026

Reviewed by: Headteacher

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Parklands Community Primary School's approach to the use of mobile phones and smart devices. It is designed to ensure pupil safety, minimise distractions, and support a calm, focused learning environment. It also supports pupils' preparation for secondary school through supervised and responsible use of technology.

This policy aligns with the Department for Education's 2024 guidance on mobile phones in schools.

2. Key Principle

Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones or smart devices in school unless authorised by the Headteacher.

3. Department for Education Guidance

This policy is underpinned by national guidance:

"Schools should prohibit mobile phones from the school day unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is to support a calm, safe and disciplined environment for pupils."
– DfE, Mobile Phones in Schools: Guidance for Schools on Developing a Policy, February 2024

4. Pupil Mobile Phone Procedure

- No pupil may bring a mobile phone or smart device into school without the explicit permission of the Headteacher.
- Permission may be granted to Year 6 pupils only, to support independence and preparation for secondary school.
- Where permission is given:
 - The phone must be switched off before entering the school grounds.
 - It must be handed to the class teacher at the start of the school day.
 - It will be stored securely during the day and returned at home time.
- The school will take reasonable steps to store devices safely, but accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage.

5. Smart Watches and Devices

Smart watches and other wearable technology that allow messaging, internet access, photography, or communication are not permitted in school under any circumstances.

6. Strongly Discouraged

While limited Year 6 permissions may be granted, mobile phones are strongly discouraged. Parents are encouraged to consider whether their child genuinely needs to bring a device to school.

7. Staff and Visitors

- Staff and visitors must not use personal mobile phones or devices in pupil-facing areas, corridors, playgrounds, or the hall.

- Phones may be used:
 - In staff-only areas (e.g. offices, staffroom)
 - For business or safeguarding reasons (e.g. by the office team, site manager, or when contacting emergency services)
- Staff must model responsible and minimal use of mobile phones.

8. Safeguarding and Online Safety

This policy is part of our wider safeguarding approach. Limiting access to personal technology supports pupils' safety, reduces risk of online harm, and encourages face-to-face interaction and play.

9. Breaches of the Policy

- Unauthorised phones or devices will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or carer.
- Repeated or serious breaches may lead to further consequences in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

10. Communication During the Day

If a parent needs to contact their child during the school day, they must do so through the school office. Pupils are not permitted to use phones during school hours.