


<u>Responsible Body</u>	<u>Title of Policy</u>	
<u>Governing Body of Flyford Flavell</u> <u>Primary School</u>	<u>Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices</u>	

Last reviewed on Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Next Review Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2029

Signature..... (Chair of Governors)

Print Name.....

## **Mobile Phones, Smart Devices & Personal Technology Policy**

### **Policy Statement and Safeguarding Rationale**

Pupils must not bring mobile phones or personal smart devices onto school premises unless there is a clearly identified genuine need and explicit prior permission has been granted by the school.

This approach reflects the Department for Education (DfE) guidance issued in February 2026, which states that schools should operate as mobile-phone-free environments by default, with exceptions only where they are necessary, justified, and agreed in advance.

The school's policy is grounded in safeguarding and child-protection principles. Personal devices can:

- Provide access to unfiltered internet content
- Enable unsupervised messaging and social media use
- Allow recording, photographing, or sharing of images without consent

These risks undermine pupils' safety, wellbeing, privacy, and ability to learn. Limiting access to personal devices supports a calm, safe, and focused learning environment, in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and *Behaviour in Schools* guidance.

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### **Devices Covered by This Policy**

This policy applies to all personal electronic devices capable of communication, internet access, or recording, including but not limited to:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches
- Fitness trackers with messaging or internet functionality
- Tablets or similar devices

Smartwatches and similar wearable technology are not permitted under any circumstances. Even where features can be disabled, such devices pose a safeguarding risk due to potential access to unrestricted communication and online services that cannot be reliably monitored during the school day. This aligns with DfE guidance, which makes clear that mobile phone policies should also include smart technology with similar functionality.

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### **Genuine Need – Prior Agreement Required**

A pupil may bring a mobile phone to school only where the school has identified and agreed with parents/carers that there is a genuine need. Permission must be obtained in advance from the Headteacher or Key Stage Phase Leaders.

Examples of genuine need may include:

- Medical or health-related requirements
- Pupils who live across two or more households
- Pupils who walk home alone and require a phone for safety
- Pupils who return to an empty house

General convenience, social contact, or parental preference do not constitute a genuine need. The school retains discretion to determine whether circumstances meet the threshold for an exception, as permitted within the DfE's February 2026 guidance.

### **Conditions**

Where permission is given for a mobile phone to be brought to school:

- Written parental agreement must be in place
- Appropriate parental controls must be applied

The device must be:

- Switched off
- Handed in to the school office immediately on arrival
- Stored securely in the school office for the duration of the school day

The device will be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day. Pupils are not permitted to access the device at any time while on school premises.

### **Medical Exception**

An exception to the above conditions will be made where a mobile phone or connected device is required to be within a specific proximity to a pupil in order to monitor or manage a medical condition. In such circumstances, the school will work in partnership with parents/carers and relevant professionals to agree appropriate arrangements

- Adjustments will be made to ensure that pupils with medical conditions:
  - Are safely supported
  - Have their needs met
  - Are not disadvantaged by this policy

### **Use of Mobile Phones by Parents, Carers and Visitors**

#### **Safeguarding Position**

To safeguard all pupils and respect individual privacy rights, the school operates a no mobile phone use policy for parents, carers and visitors while on school premises.

The school does not have permission for all children to be photographed or filmed, and unrestricted mobile phone use presents an unacceptable safeguarding and data-protection risk.

#### **Expectations on School Grounds**

Unless an explicit exception has been agreed by the school:

- Mobile phones must not be used by parents, carers or visitors on school grounds
- Photography, filming, recording or live streaming is not permitted
- Mobile phones should be kept out of sight at all times

This applies during:

- Drop-off and collection
- The school day
- Assemblies, events and activities

Staff are authorised to challenge any mobile phone use that does not comply with this policy.

## **Photography and Filming**

Parents, carers and visitors do not have permission to photograph or film pupils on school premises. Any unauthorised photography or filming will be treated as a safeguarding concern.

### **Exception – Special Events (Controlled)**

A limited exception may be made only for specific school events, such as sports day, where:

- The school has explicitly permitted photography
- A designated photographic area has been set up
- Clear guidance has been shared in advance
- Parents and carers may photograph their own child only and only within the designated area.

### **Urgent or Essential Phone Calls**

Where a parent, carer or visitor needs to take an urgent or essential phone call, they must:

- Inform a member of school staff
- Be directed to a private and safe area away from pupils

Mobile phones must not be used elsewhere on the school site. This ensures safeguarding expectations are maintained while allowing genuine need to be managed appropriately.

### **Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices by Staff Safeguarding Expectations**

All staff have a responsibility to model appropriate behaviour and ensure their use of mobile phones or personal devices does not compromise safeguarding, professionalism, or pupil wellbeing.

### **Personal Mobile Phones**

Personal mobile phones may be brought to school at the owner's own risk. Phones must be:

- Out of sight when pupils are present
- Used only in private areas, such as staff rooms or offices

Staff must not use personal mobile phones:

- In classrooms
- In corridors, playgrounds, or shared school spaces
- In the presence of pupils

### **Phone Calls**

Personal phone calls must be taken only in private, designated staff areas. Staff must not make or receive personal phone calls where pupils are present, except in exceptional circumstances and with management agreement.

### **Photography and Recording**

Staff must not use personal mobile phones or devices to take photographs or videos of pupils.

All photography or recording must:

- Take place only on school-owned devices

- Be in line with parental consent arrangements
- Follow the school's data-protection and safeguarding procedures

### **Smart Devices and Wearables**

Smartwatches or wearable devices with recording or communication capability must not be used by staff in ways that could compromise safeguarding. Any personal device capable of recording audio, video or images must not be used around pupils.

### **Professional Conduct and Oversight**

Staff must model the expectations set out for pupils, parents/carers, and visitors. Failure to adhere to this policy may be treated as a professional conduct or safeguarding concern and addressed through appropriate procedures.