



SMARTPHONE FREE POLICY

(Non-Statutory)

Date of Policy Issue/Review	July 2026
Policy approved/date	By Governors Full Governing Body at their meeting on 8 th July 2026
Signature of Governing Body	Signed on behalf of FGB <i>C. Shephard</i>
Next review	July 2028

Smartphone-Free Policy

1. Purpose and Rationale

As a group of primary schools, we are committed to creating calm, focused and safe learning environments that support children's wellbeing, concentration and positive relationships.

There is growing national concern about the impact of smartphones on children's mental health, sleep, attention and social development. National guidance now strongly supports restricting mobile phone use in schools and Ofsted considers how effectively schools implement their mobile phone policies during inspections.

This policy is deliberately aligned with the approach taken by our local secondary schools, including Yateley School, which is implementing a phased move to a fully smartphone-free environment by September 2026. Our shared aim is to provide children with a consistent, supportive message about healthy technology use as they move through their education.

By adopting a **smartphone-free-by-default** approach across our schools, we aim to:

- Reduce distraction and anxiety during the school day
- Support safeguarding and data protection
- Reduce social pressure on children to own smartphones
- Promote healthy digital habits in partnership with families
- Ensure consistency for pupils and parents across all of our schools

Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of 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](#).

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff
- Parents, carers, visitors and volunteers
- All school sites and school-led activities, including trips

Throughout this policy, *mobile phones* includes smartphones, smart devices and any internet-enabled communication devices.

3. Roles and responsibilities

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for consistently enforcing this policy.

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 every 2 years, reviewing it and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every 2 years.

4. Policy Statement

From September 2026, our school will operate as a smartphone-free school.

The core expectations are:

- Smartphones and other smart devices are not permitted on school premises
- Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing primary-age children to own or regularly use smartphones
- Where permitted, mobile phones must be handed to staff on arrival and collected at the end of the school day

This shared approach reduces inconsistency, confusion and peer pressure between schools.

5. Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils

5.1 Smartphones and Smart Devices

Pupils **must not** bring smartphones or smart devices (including smartwatches with messaging or calling functions) onto school premises.

If a smartphone or smart device is brought to school:

- It will be confiscated
- Parents/carers will be contacted
- Ongoing breaches may be managed through the school's behaviour policy

5.2 Exceptions

Exceptions may be considered on a **case-by-case basis**, for example:

- Medical needs
- Young carers
- Specific safeguarding arrangements
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Requests must be made in advance to the headteacher and may require written agreement.

Any exception will be formally agreed in advance with the headteacher and, where appropriate, documented as part of an individual medical, safeguarding or support plan.

6. Use of Mobile Phones by Staff

Staff are expected to model responsible and professional use of mobile phones

- Personal mobile phones should not be used where pupils are present
- Phones must not be used to photograph or record pupils
- Staff must not use personal devices to process pupil data
- Any required communication with parents should be via school systems

Any failure to follow this policy may result in action under staff conduct or disciplinary procedures.

Further information on acceptable use of ICT can be found in Safeguarding, Child Protection and Online Safety Policies.

7. Parents, Visitors and Volunteers

While on school premises during the school day, parents, carers, visitors and volunteers must:

- Keep mobile phones on silent
- Not take photographs or videos of pupils (unless other arrangements have been agreed)
- Not use phones in areas where pupils are present
- Use the school office as the first point of contact

Visitors will be reminded of these expectations when signing in.

8. Loss, Theft or Damage

- Schools accept no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged
- Confiscated or stored phones will be kept securely
- Parents and pupils are responsible for ensuring devices brought to school meet policy expectations

9. Partnership with Parents

We recognise that this policy represents a cultural shift for some families.

To support families, schools will:

- Share information about smartphone-free childhood initiatives
- Signpost affordable non-smart phone alternatives
- Offer space for discussion around individual circumstances
- Be mindful of financial, personal and practical considerations

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by local headteachers and governing bodies, considering:

- Behaviour and wellbeing trends
- Safeguarding incidents
- Feedback from parents, staff and pupils
- Updates to national guidance

11. Approval and Adoption

This policy is adopted by:

Westfields Federation
Hawley Primary School
Cranford Park
Potley Hill
Charles Kingsley
Newlands Primary
Frogmore Juniors

and will be ratified by each governing body.