

# Parent Guide: Mobile Phone Policy for Primary Pupils

## *Creating a Safe, Calm and Focused School Environment*

From September 2026, our school will become a smartphone-free environment. This reflects national guidance (DfE, 2024) and growing evidence that smartphones can distract children, affect wellbeing, and create safeguarding concerns in schools (UNESCO, 2023).

### Key Points at a Glance

- Smartphones are not allowed in school.
- Only basic “brick phones” (calls and texts only) may be brought into school — and only by pupils who walk to and from school without an adult.
- All phones must be switched off before entering the school site.
- Phones must be handed in on arrival and will be stored securely until home time.
- Any child using, showing, or turning on a phone during the school day will have it kept by the school until collected by a parent/carer.
- Exceptions will only apply to agreed medical or safeguarding plans.

### Why Are We Doing This?

National and international evidence shows that smartphones in schools can:

- Distract children from learning.
- Increase risks of online harm and cyberbullying.
- Affect children’s wellbeing and social development.

### Who May Bring a Phone?

Only pupils who:

1. Are in Years 6, and/or
2. Travel to or from school independently, walking without an adult

### What Counts as a “Brick Phone”?

A suitable phone:

- Can make calls
- Can send texts
- Cannot access the internet, apps, games, music, cameras, or social media

## How the System Will Work

### Morning Arrival

- Phones must be switched off before entering the gate.
- Children hand their phone to staff at the designated collection point.
- Phones are stored in a secure, locked container.

### During the School Day

- Children do not have access to phones at any time.

### Home Time

- Phones are returned to children at the end of the school day.
- Phones must remain switched off until they leave the school site.

## Misuse of Phones

If a child uses or turns on their phone during the school day:

- The phone will be kept in the school office.
- A parent or carer must collect it.

### Medical or Safeguarding Needs

Arrangements will be made for children who require specialist devices as part of a medical or safeguarding plan.

### Questions?

Please contact the school office.