



Smartphone-Free Childhood Policy

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**Member of staff responsible
for this policy in consultation
with staff and governors:**

Jo Redman

**Governing Body Committee
responsible for review:**

Children and Learning

Date of next review:

Summer 2027

Ratified by Governing Body:

Summer 2026

1. Purpose and Rationale

We are committed as a group of primary schools, 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 for pupils, 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 our families
- Ensure consistency for pupils and parents across all of our schools

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, family members, visitors and volunteers
- All school sites and school-led activities, including trips

Throughout this policy, mobile phones include 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 for pupils.

The core expectations are:

- Smartphones and other smart devices are not permitted on school premises for pupils
- Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing primary-age children to own or regularly use smartphones

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 will be contacted
- Ongoing breaches may be managed through the school's behaviour policy

5.3 Exceptions

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

- Medical needs
- Young carers
- Specific safeguarding arrangements

Requests must be made in advance to the Executive Headteacher and may require written agreement. Any exception will be formally agreed in advance with the Executive 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, family members, visitors and volunteers must:

- Keep mobile phones on silent (or preferably switch off)
- 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 as part of our safeguarding guidelines.

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

10. Approval and Adoption

A version of this policy is adopted by:



and will be ratified by each governing body.

Appendix 1:



School Lane, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 6NN
Executive Headteacher: Miss J Redman

Dear Parents,

In order to support parents who wish their child to have a phone (not smartphone) available to them before and after school, we have made the following option available for Year 5 and Year 6 children.

- A child may bring a mobile phone (not smartphone) into school if an agreement form is signed.
- All phones will need to be switched off (not just on silent) whilst on the school site.
- The phone must be stored in your child's bag at your own risk. The school is not able to take any responsibility for any loss or damage.
- Safe and appropriate use of phones if turned on for the journey to and from school remains the parent's responsibility.

You and your child will be asked to sign the mobile phone agreement before they may bring a phone to school.

Please be clear that there is no requirement for your child to have a phone with them and we anticipate that there will only be a small number of children whose parents feel the need for this option. For example, if you drop off and collect your child, or they live close by, there is no need for them to have a phone with them. In order to support those parents in more diverse working situations or those in different family circumstances we understand you may feel that your child having a phone is appropriate. **Please note, children will not be allowed to bring a mobile phone on any school trip or event.**

We will allow phones to be brought into school immediately, upon receipt of the signed mobile phone agreement. Not adhering to a condition of the agreement, or having a phone on site without a signed agreement, will result in the phone being held at Reception for collection by a parent. This may then lead to the agreement being ended for your child.

As a school we hope that this provides a compromise that meets the needs of parents in different situations and therefore with very different needs or points of view.

Kind regards,

Miss Jo Redman
Executive Headteacher



School Lane, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 6NN
Executive Headteacher: Miss J Redman

Mobile Phone Agreement

I have read and understood the Smartphone Free Childhood Policy.

- I acknowledge that any mobile phone remains the sole responsibility of the child and that the school will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.
- I acknowledge that the school will not provide any storage or supervision of any mobile phone.
- I acknowledge that any mobile phone must be switched off upon arrival at the **school boundary** and must remain off until the child leaves the school site.
- I acknowledge that if a mobile phone is found to be turned on within the school grounds, the phone will be taken from the child and must be collected from Reception by a parent.
- I understand that breaking a condition of this agreement may lead to the agreement being ended.

Parent name	
Parent's signature	
Child name	
Child's class	
Child's signature	
Date	

