FROXFIELD
CE SCHOOL

Froxfield CE School

Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Policy

Review Cycle:	Bi-annual	**Next review:**	September 2027
Approver: Chair of C&L	Signed: Date: September 2026	Approver: Headteacher	Signed: Date: September 2026

This policy has been written to comply with current UK legislation and guidance, including:

- The Equality Act 2010
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Children and Families Act 2014 (where children have health care plans or EHCPs)
- Relevant Department for Education guidance (e.g., Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, December 2015, and subsequent updates)
- NHS and UK Resuscitation Council guidance for anaphylaxis and emergency response
  It also reflects best practice for maintained primary schools operating within a rural community context and under the OFSTED framework.

Linked policies	Online Safety Policy; Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; Behaviour Policy; Acceptable Use Policies

1. Introduction and rationale

At Froxfield CE School, the safety, wellbeing and education of our children are at the heart of all that we do. We believe that primary-aged children benefit from a school environment in which they can learn, play, talk, build friendships and develop independence without the distraction or pressures associated with mobile phones and smart technology.

In line with Department for Education guidance, Froxfield CE School is a mobile phone-free school throughout the school day. Pupils do not have access to mobile phones or other personal smart

communication devices during lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, clubs or any other part of the school day.

We recognise that, as children become older and begin to travel to and from school independently, some parents may wish their child to carry a basic mobile phone for safety and communication before or after school. Our policy therefore provides a limited and carefully managed arrangement for pupils in Year 6 who travel to school independently.

Many families within our school community have also chosen to support the principles of Smartphone Free Childhood. We recognise and value the strong partnership between school and families in helping children develop a healthy, safe and age-appropriate relationship with technology.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

• maintain a calm, safe and distraction-free learning environment;
• protect pupils from inappropriate online content, cyberbullying and unwanted communication during the school day;
• reduce opportunities for photographs, videos or audio recordings to be taken without consent;
• support positive face-to-face friendships, play and social interaction;
• establish clear and consistent expectations for pupils, parents and staff;
• support families in making informed decisions about children's use of smartphones and connected technology; and
• allow a proportionate arrangement for older pupils who travel to or from school independently.

3. Expectations for pupils

Children in Reception to Year 5 should not bring a mobile phone to school. Pupils in 6 may bring a basic 'brick-style' mobile phone to school where this is needed for communication or safety because they are beginning to travel to or from school independently.

For the purposes of this policy, a basic or 'brick-style' phone is a simple mobile phone intended primarily for calls and text messages and without the functionality normally associated with a smartphone.

Smartphones should not be brought to school by pupils.

Where a Year 6 pupil brings an approved basic phone to school:

• prior agreement must be sought from the Headteacher;
• the phone must be switched off before the pupil enters school;
• it must be handed directly to the school office on arrival;
• it will be stored securely in the school office throughout the school day;
• the pupil will have no access to the phone during the school day;

• it may be collected from the school office at the end of the school day; and
• the phone is brought onto the school premises at the family's own risk.

The school cannot accept responsibility for loss of or damage to personal mobile phones or devices brought onto the school site.

4. Smartwatches and other connected devices

The principles of this policy also apply to personal devices with communication or recording functions, including smartwatches and similar connected technology.

Pupils should not use personal devices during the school day to send or receive calls, messages or notifications; access the internet or social media; take photographs; make video or audio recordings; or communicate with people outside school.

A standard watch or child-focused activity tracker without active communication, internet or recording functions may be worn, provided that it does not distract the pupil or others from learning.

A smartwatch or similar device has mobile-phone-style functionality is not permitted to be bought into school.

5. Contact between parents and children during the school day

Parents should not contact their child directly on a personal device during the school day.

If a parent needs to pass an urgent or important message to their child, they should contact the school office. School staff will ensure that appropriate messages are passed on.

Similarly, if a child needs to contact a parent during the school day, this will be arranged through the school office. This ensures that the school is aware of important communication concerning a child and that pupils remain fully engaged in school life.

6. Exceptions

We recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances in which a pupil requires access to particular technology because of a medical need, disability or special educational need, safeguarding need, or another exceptional individual circumstance agreed by the Headteacher.

Any exception will be considered individually and agreed with the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff. Exceptions will be based on the needs of the individual child and will not create a general entitlement to use a mobile phone during the school day.

7. If a pupil does not follow the policy

If a pupil brings a smartphone or an unauthorised device to school, uses a mobile phone or smart device during the school day, or fails to hand in a phone as required:

1. the device will be taken to the school office and stored securely;
2. the pupil will be reminded of the school's expectations;
3. parents will be informed where appropriate; and
4. repeated or deliberate breaches will be addressed in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Depending on the circumstances and any repeated breaches, the school may require the device to be collected by a parent or withdraw permission for the pupil to bring a phone onto the school site.

Any use of a device to photograph, film or record another person without permission, access inappropriate material, bully or harass another person, or otherwise create a safeguarding concern will be treated seriously and managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour, Online Safety and Safeguarding policies.

8. Online safety education

Our approach extends beyond simply removing phones from the school day. We recognise that children need high-quality, age-appropriate education to help them navigate an increasingly digital world safely and responsibly.

Froxfield CE School:

- teaches online safety as part of the curriculum;
- has a comprehensive Internet Usage Policy;
- regularly provides parents with updates and information about mobile phones, online safety and emerging digital risks through the school website and newsletter;
- responds to emerging online safety issues and trends as appropriate; and
- encourages open conversations between children, parents and school about online experiences.

Pupils are taught about both the risks and benefits of technology and about making safe, respectful and responsible choices online.

9. Working with parents and families

We recognise that decisions about when a child should have a mobile phone or smartphone are ultimately made by parents outside school. However, the school has an important role in providing information, supporting families and establishing clear expectations while children are in our care.

We welcome the fact that many Froxfield CE School families have signed up to Smartphone Free Childhood or have chosen to delay giving their child a smartphone.

The school will continue to share current online safety information with families; support parents in understanding emerging risks and challenges; encourage age-appropriate and balanced use of

technology; promote opportunities for children to socialise, play and develop independence away from screens; and maintain a clear, consistent mobile phone-free environment during the school day.

The school does not seek to dictate families' choices outside school. Our role is to support parents with reliable information and to maintain expectations that protect children's learning, wellbeing and safety while at school.

10. Staff use of mobile phones

Staff are expected to model responsible use of mobile technology.

Personal mobile phones should not be used for personal purposes in front of pupils during the school day except where there is a legitimate professional operational or emergency reason. Teaching staff may be permitted, with prior authorisation, to take photos using their mobile device and asked to transfer photos to the school server and delete within 24 hours.

Staff must follow the school's safeguarding, data protection and acceptable-use requirements. Personal devices must not be used to take photographs or recordings of pupils for school purposes unless specifically authorised under school procedures.

11. Visitors, volunteers and contractors

Visitors, volunteers and contractors are expected to use mobile phones responsibly and in accordance with the school's safeguarding arrangements.

Phones should not be used in a way that disrupts learning or compromises the privacy or safeguarding of pupils. Visitors must not photograph, film or record children without explicit permission from the school.

12. Educational visits and residential trips

The same principles apply during school visits and activities. Pupils should not bring personal mobile phones on educational visits unless the school has specifically agreed otherwise. Parent helpers are requested to not use their mobile phones during school trips in front of the children.

Where different arrangements are necessary for a particular residential visit or activity, these will be communicated clearly to parents in advance.

13. Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, supported by all staff.

The policy will be communicated clearly to pupils and parents and will be reviewed annually, or sooner if Department for Education guidance changes, safeguarding concerns identify a need for review, or developments in technology require the school's approach to be updated.

Reference

Department for Education: Mobile phones in schools – guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.