Brunswick Park Primary School



Brunswick Park
Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy

(encompassing the use of smart watches)

Approved by: Veronica Kigundu **Date: 15 October 2026**

Issue date: 15 October 2026 **Next Review due by: 15 October 2028**

Policy Aims:

To:

- Promote and set an example for safe and responsible phone use;
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones and smart watches for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers;
- Support and align with the school's other policies, including the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour for Learning Policy and Acceptable IT usage policies.

It also aims to mitigate some of the practical challenges posed by mobile phones and smart watches in school, such as:

- Data protection;
- Potential for disruption to lessons;
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage;
- Poor mental health, such as depression and anxiety;
- Addiction to devices
- Issues with attention and sleep;
- Risks of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content including violence and age-inappropriate material;
- Distraction from learning important life skills, including attention, communication and socialisation.

Rationale:

By the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone. The use of mobile phones in school can lead to distractions, disruption and can increase the risk of online bullying.

The majority (63%) of 8-11-year-olds use social media and messaging apps, rising to 93% for children between 12 and 15 years old. By understanding which apps their children are using, parents can make informed choices about their child's mobile phone use and support schools in providing education about online safety.

Screen time can displace positive activities. Socialising, exercise, and good sleep promote healthy wellbeing. All these can be displaced by screen time. By prohibiting the use of mobile phones during break and lunchtimes at school as well as in lessons, more time for socialising and exercise can be created during the school day. Parents should be encouraged to consider the impact screen time has on their child's sleep and collaborate with schools to promote children's wellbeing.

One in five children has experienced bullying online. Data from Office of National Statistics (2020) suggest that one in five children (19%) aged 10-15 experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they experienced at least some of it at school or during school time. Around half of children (52%) who experienced online bullying behaviours said they would not describe them as bullying and around one in four (26%) did not report their experiences.

Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend

more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

The government introduced statutory guidance in June 2026 to prohibit the use of phones at school, to help pupils focus on their education, and the friends and staff around them. The guidance may be found at the following link: Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK

The guidance sets out that there will be some limited cases where pupils should be exempt from the rules for medical reasons, or because they have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

This will include situations in which, for example, a diabetic pupil may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- All pupils are responsible for adhering to this policy.
- All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for adhering to and 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 Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for monitoring the policy, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

Online Safety:

- Brunswick Park Primary School is committed to monitoring and managing the use of mobile devices in the context of safeguarding and adhering to our obligations under the Department of Education's Filtering and Monitoring Standards.
- All mobile phone and smart watch use at the school must comply with the school's Acceptable IT Use Policies and Safeguarding Policy.

The Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Watches by Children:

Only pupils from Years 5 and 6 are permitted to bring a mobile phone or smart watch to school. They will need to be handed in at the school office on arrival at school and can be collected at the end of the school day. We accept that parents/carers may provide their child with a phone or smart watch to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. We acknowledge that providing your child with a mobile phone or smart watch gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently either on their journey to, or from, school. Please be aware that the school will be moving to a total mobile ban in September 2027. The policy will be updated to reflect that change.

Responsibility:

All staff, pupils and parents/carers have a responsibility to adhere to this policy. If a pupil is required to bring a mobile phone to school, it is in agreement with the school. This exception would apply where pupils should be exempt from the rules for medical reasons, or because they have special

educational needs and/or disabilities. This will include situations in which, for example, a diabetic pupil may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Procedures:

Where an exemption applies, pupils are required to:

- Turn off their phone or smart watch before entering the school;
- Hand the phone or smart watch to the office for safekeeping;
- If for medical reasons, use their phone or smart watch only in the presence of a member of staff;
- Collect their phone or smart watch at the end of the school day and not turn it on until they have left the school premises.

Theft and Damage:

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or smart watches.

Sanctions:

Pupils who are found in possession of a mobile phone or smart watch and are not eligible for an exemption and have not handed it in to the school office, will have the mobile phone or smart watch confiscated. It will be kept in the school office and parents will be notified. The pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone or smart watch without their parent/carer coming to the school and meeting a member of the senior leadership team.

The Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Watches by Adults:

The Governing Body of Brunswick Park Primary School allows staff to bring in mobile phones and smart watches for their own personal use. However, phones must be always kept in their bags or cupboards and are not allowed to be used in the classrooms when children are present, in toilets, or in school play areas. Smart watches may be used during the day if silenced, and not for answering calls. If staff fail to follow this guidance, this should be reported to the Head Teacher who will decide what action should be taken.

All staff should enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones and smart watches consistently.

Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. This will empower staff to better challenge pupils to meet the school's expectations and enforce the prohibition of mobile phones throughout the school day effectively.

If staff need to make an emergency phone call which would mean breaching this policy, they must do so from a school phone, make a call outside of the school premises or use their mobile phone in the staffroom.

Staff must ensure that there is no inappropriate or illegal content on their personal devices.

There are digital cameras available within the school and only these should be used to record visual information within the consent criteria guidelines of the school and local authority.

When children undertake a school trip or journey, mobile phone use by adult leaders should be limited to contact with the school office or venues being visited, except in emergencies and then only by approved telephones. Images should be captured on devices other than mobile phones.

Members of staff may only contact a parent/carer on school approved mobile phones.

Use of Mobile Phones for Volunteers and Visitors:

Upon their initial visit, volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises. If they wish to make or take an emergency phone call, they may use the office telephone. Volunteers or visitors are not permitted to take photographs or recordings of the children. These include parents/carers.

Monitoring and Review:

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour, and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will consider relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority, or other relevant organisations. This policy will be reviewed every two years.

APPENDIX 1

Mobile Phone Agreement

Parent/Carer

1. I will ensure my child understands that the phone must not be turned on within the school grounds at any time whatsoever.
2. I will ensure my child understands that the phone is given directly to the school office on arrival in a named, zipped purse/case or cover. I understand that the mobile phone may not be kept in my child's school bag.
3. I accept responsibility for the mobile phone my child has brought on to school premises. I understand that the school does not accept liability for the phone.
4. I understand that my child is responsible for collecting the phone from the school office and will not turn the phone on until they have left the school premises.
5. I have read and understood the Brunswick Park Primary School Mobile Phone Policy.

Signed by Parent/Carer _____

Name of Parent/Carer _____

Date _____

Pupil

1. I understand that I may not turn my mobile phone on at school at any time.
2. I will ensure I hand my phone directly to the school office as soon as I arrive at school in a named, zipped purse/case or cover and that I will collect it after school.
3. I will not turn my phone on until I have left the school gates.
4. I understand that I will not be allowed to bring a phone to school again if I turn it on at school or leave it in my school bag, and that my phone will be confiscated if I do so.
5. I understand that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to bully, harass or offend another person.

Signed by Pupil _____

Name of Pupil _____

Mobile phone number _____

Date _____

APPENDIX 2

Smart Mobile Phone Agreement under exemption of the Equality Act 2010

Pupil Information:

Pupil Name:

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Contact Number(s):

Exemption Request:

Reason for Request:

(Clearly state the medical/SEND reason the pupil needs to have a mobile phone with them during school hours. Examples: monitoring blood sugar levels, managing allergies, or for communication in case of emergencies, the type/s of which should be specified.)

Specific Needs:

(Explain how the phone will be used to address the reasons for the request. For example, will it be used to access a specific app, to take photos for monitoring, or to communicate with parents/guardians.)

Specify how often the student is expected to use the phone for medical purposes during school hours.

Evidence from a professional to support the request:

Signature from parents/carers to always adhere to school policy _____

Signature from pupil to always adhere to school policy _____

Date _____