



St. John's Church of England VA Primary School
Finding the light in ourselves and each other
Inspired by the Gospel according to John (chapter 8, verse 12)

An aspirational school that encourages every child regardless of their background to 'soar on wings like eagles' in their learning and personal development (Isaiah 40:31)

Mobile Phone and Other Smart Technology Policy

Issued:	Summer 2026
Term:	3 Years
To Be Reviewed:	Summer 2029

*A truly inclusive school that is built upon the values of
Hope - Joy - Love - Forgiveness - Faith - Goodness*



St. John's Church of England VA Primary School

1. Introduction and aims

At St John's Church of England VA Primary School (St. John's), we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection, behaviour, online safety, as well as GDPR.

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for 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, reviewing it and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

Staff will address any questions or concerns from parents/carers quickly and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

2.2 Governors

This policy will be reviewed by the Quality of Education Committee every 3 years.



3. Use of mobile phones and other smart technology by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to use their phone or smart watch for personal reasons, while children are present or whilst in a space where children may be present. Use of personal mobile phones or smart watches must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The Headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number 01438 714283 as a point of emergency contact.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information.

For further information, please take note of the Code of Conduct and GDPR Policy, Acceptable use Agreements and the Home School Agreement.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps. For a limited number of staff, sharing personal contact details may be deemed appropriate if parents are governors, for groups who have access to the school site outside of school hours e.g. After School Provision, volunteers and the Friends committee etc.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil, that are stored onto their device. If it is necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment. If on the rare occasion, school equipment is not available, then, using the Seesaw app, the photo can be taken live via a mobile phone – this means that the picture is not stored on the device.



3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office

3.5 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the school's staff disciplinary policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones and other smart technology by pupils

4.1 Mobile Phones

Our school approach to pupils bringing mobile phones to school specifies that there are certain circumstances where it is appropriate for children to bring in mobile phones to school, for example:

- Travelling to/from school by themselves
- Young carers who need to be contactable
- Pupils with diabetes who use their phone to monitor their blood sugar level

Although pupils are allowed to bring phones to school, they are not allowed to use them while they are on school grounds. Mobile phones that belong to pupils that are brought into school will be switched off and stored safely away in either the classroom or the office for the duration of the school day. They will be returned to pupils at the end of the school day. An exception to this is where a pupil with diabetes requires their phone throughout the day to monitor their blood sugar level. In this instance, the use of the phone will be limited to this purpose only.

The same expectations apply during school activities, residential visits and school trips. Pupils must not use mobile phones or other personal communication devices during these activities. Any phones brought on a school trip will be switched off and stored securely by staff for the duration of the visit and returned to pupils at the end of the trip, unless an exception has been agreed in advance by the Headteacher or is required to support a medical need, such as diabetes monitoring.



4.2 Smart watches

Pupils will be allowed to wear smart watches so long as the watch does not have the ability to send or receive calls and text messages (or this function has been disabled) or take pictures or videos or be tracked. If a pupil is found to be receiving calls or messages on their smart watch, or taking pictures or videos, the pupil will be asked to remove the watch, and it will be stored safely and returned to the pupil at the end of the day.

4.3 Trackers

The use of tracking devices in school is strictly prohibited. Pupils must not bring, use, conceal, or attach tracking devices to belongings when on school premises or during any school activity, trip or residential without the explicit permission of the school. This includes devices such as Apple AirTags, GPS trackers, or similar location-tracking technology.

The unauthorised use of tracking devices may compromise the privacy, safety, and safeguarding of pupils, staff, and visitors. Tracking another individual without their knowledge or consent is strictly prohibited.

If a pupil is found to be in possession of a tracking device or other unauthorised electronic equipment:

- Parents/carers will be informed and may be required to collect their child from school.
- The pupil may be unable to continue participating in the trip or residential visit.
- Any prohibited device may be confiscated and dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour, safeguarding procedures, including disposal where appropriate.

4.4 Sanctions

If a pupil is in breach of this policy then the following sanctions may apply:

- Under sections 91 and 94 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), schools are permitted to confiscate phones or smart watches from pupils.
- If they are confiscated, a named contact on the schools database will be responsible for collecting the phone or smart watch from the school.
- Depending on the nature of how the policy has been breached, permission to bring in a mobile phone or smart watch maybe removed

School staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil's phone if they have good reason to do so (e.g. they believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury).

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.



5. Use of mobile phones and other smart technology by parents, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's an event (such as a school fair or sports day), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using mobile phones or smart watches during school hours, unless in a designated room where children are not present e.g. staffroom.

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone/smart watch use when they sign in at reception or attend an event at school.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their mobile phone or smart watch to make contact with other parents
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.



6. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled, and are stored according to this policy

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Pupils and parents are made aware of the disclaimer.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the safe that is in the Headteacher's Office.

Lost phones should be returned to a member of the school office, who will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. 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 take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Feedback from governors
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and reviewed and approved every 3 years by the Quality of Education Committee.



Appendix 1: Code of conduct for pupils

Code of conduct

You must obey the following rules if you bring your mobile phone or other smart device to school:

1. You may not use your mobile phone or smart device while on the school site regardless of the day/time.
2. Phones must be switched off (not just put on 'silent').
3. You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils without their consent.
4. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
5. Don't share your phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else.
6. Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
 - a. Email
 - b. Text/messaging app
 - c. Social media
7. Don't use your phone or smart device to send or receive anything that may be criminal. For instance, by 'sexting'.
8. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone or smart device even when you aren't in school.
9. Don't use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the mobile phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour policy.
10. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or turn over, a mobile phone or smart device. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.



Appendix 2: Permission form for pupils to use mobile phones at school

Pupil Details	
Pupil Name:	
Date:	
Class:	
Reason for bringing phone on to the school site	

Pupil agreement

I understand that I am not allowed to use my phone at any time whilst on the school site. If my teacher, or any other member of staff, finds that I'm using my phone for any other reason, I understand that it will be confiscated.

Pupil Signature:	
Parent Signature:	

The school has agreed to _____ to bring their mobile phone to school because they:

- Travels to/from school alone ☐
- Are a young carer ☐
- Attends before or after-school where a mobile phone may be required to contact parents ☐

Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must abide by the school's policy on the use of mobile phones, and its code of conduct. The school reserves the right to revoke permission if pupils don't abide by the policy. A signed and authorised copy of this form will be returned to the parent for your records.

For School User Only	
Authorised by:	
Date:	



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Document Control

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23rd June 2025	Approved	Quality of Education Committee
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