



Park Gate Primary School

5.10 Mobile Phone Policy

Approved By:	Governing Board
Date Approved:	September 2026
Next Review Date:	September 2029
Review Frequency:	Every 3 years
Status:	Approved
Last Updated:	September 2026

Park Gate Primary School

Smartphone Free Policy

Rationale: At Park Gate Primary School, we are committed to the safeguarding and well-being of all pupils. Whilst we recognise the importance of digital technology in today's society, we are growing increasingly concerned about the detrimental effects upon children caused by smartphone use.

Research cites the issues relating to children's exposure to smartphones as:

- Increased rates of anxiety and depression
- Reduced attention span and disrupted sleep patterns
- Exposure to inappropriate and harmful content
- Patterns of use consistent with behavioural addiction
- Reduced engagement with learning
- Increased risk of cyberbullying and grooming

As a cluster of primary school settings in the local area, given our commitment to safeguarding, we have made the decision to be a smartphone-free setting for children.

This policy aligns with the latest Department for Education guidance January 2026 on mobile phone use in schools, which strongly encourages schools to prohibit mobile phone use during the school day in order to support pupil wellbeing, learning, behaviour, and safeguarding.

Expectation: From September 2026, children must not bring smartphones or other smart devices onto the school premises.

Brick phones (those without access to internet and social media) are able to be brought in to school but their use will not be permitted on the school premises and they must be turned off and handed in for storage during the school day.

THE SCHOOL CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR ANY MOBILE PHONES THAT ARE LOST, DAMAGED OR STOLEN ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR WHILST CHILDREN ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

Exceptions: Smartphones used in the management of medical conditions will be exempt however this will need approval from the Senior Leadership Team and, in such cases, the phone must be securely configured to not restrict access to applications, internet browsers and social media. For any other exceptional circumstances, parents must consult with the Senior Leadership Team.

Sanctions: Smartphones and smart watches will be confiscated by school staff and will only be returned to a parent or guardian

Review: This policy will be reviewed every 3 years to reflect changes in technology, legal and government guidance and regulation and emerging risks.

Expectations for staff and adults on site

In order to develop and sustain a strong mobile phone-free culture, Park Gate Primary School also places clear expectations on staff and all adults on site.

In line with DfE guidance, staff mobile phones must:

- Not be used in classrooms, learning environments, or around children.
- Be kept out of sight during the school day, including during lessons, assemblies, and transitions around the school, including shared spaces. Not to be kept on the person and locked away in shared area cupboards.

Staff may only use mobile phones:

- In designated staff areas (e.g. staffroom)
- During breaks or non-contact time
- In specific, authorised circumstances related to safeguarding, medical needs, or essential operational purposes

This approach ensures:

- Staff are fully present and engaged with children making sure that every moment of learning time counts.
- A calm, focused learning environment
- Strong role modelling of healthy digital boundaries
- Consistent safeguarding practice

All visitors, volunteers, and contractors are also expected to adhere to these expectations while on site.