Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy for Pupils

(Where mobile phones are mentioned, the same applies to smart devices e.g. smart watches)

1. Introduction and Rationale

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance *'Banning mobile phones in schools'* (June 2024), which came into force on 29 June 2026. Schools are required to have and maintain a policy prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. This policy ensures that mobile phones and similar devices are prohibited throughout the school day. This approach supports pupils' wellbeing, reduces distractions, and creates a focused learning environment. This policy applies to mobile phones and smart devices with similar functionality, such as devices that can message, video, record, or receive notifications.
Statutory guidance reference: Department for Education (2024) *Banning mobile phones in schools* - statutory guidance for schools in England.

2. Policy Statement

Pitmaston Primary School operates a phone and smart device free school day. Pupils in Year 5 and 6 are permitted to bring mobile phones onto school premises, if they are walking or cycling home alone, but must not use or access them whilst on the school site. The same applies to smart watches if parents/carers wish to track their child's location on the way to or from school.

3. Permitted Devices

This policy covers:
- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smartwatches with communication, messaging, or internet capability
- Tablets and other portable devices with similar functionality.

4. Requirements for Pupils

Pupils who bring mobile phones or smart devices to school must ensure it is switched off before they enter the school gates and hand it their device to their class teacher at the start of the school day. It is then collected from the teacher at the end of the day and must remain switched off until outside of the school gates. Pupils will not be given access to their device during the school day.

5. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that some pupils may require reasonable adjustments to this policy to meet their individual needs. Exceptions will only be made in the following circumstances:

5.1 Medical Needs

Where a pupil requires a device to monitor or manage a health condition (e.g., continuous glucose monitoring for diabetes, epilepsy alerts), this must be:
- Discussed and agreed in advance with Senior Leaders and School Nurse
- Documented in the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan
- Reviewed regularly to ensure the arrangement remains appropriate
- Limited to the specific medical function required.

5.2 Emergency Situations

Where explicit permission is given by a member of staff for a specific, time-limited purpose. All exceptions must be documented, communicated to relevant staff, and reviewed at least termly to ensure they remain necessary and appropriate.

6. Consequences for Non-Compliance

If a pupil is found using or accessing their mobile phone or smart device during the school day, the following sanctions will apply:

- In the first instance, the device will be removed from the pupil's possession and returned to the pupil at the end of the school day. Parents/carers will be informed.
- If there is a second offence, the device will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/carer.
- If there are persistent offences**,** the device will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/carer and further sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour and Relationships policy will be issued. The pupil may be prohibited from bringing a device to school.

Serious misuse (e.g., taking photographs/videos of others without consent, cyberbullying, accessing inappropriate content) will lead to immediate confiscation and serious sanctions in line with the behaviour policy, potentially including suspension. Police will be involved where appropriate and our safeguarding procedures will be followed.

7. Confiscation and Searching

The Headteacher, or a delegated senior leader in their absence, has the legal right to confiscate mobile phones and smart devices from pupils in accordance with the Education Act 2011 and DfE guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. Confiscated devices will be stored securely in the school office and returned in accordance with the sanctions outlined above. They will not be examined or searched unless there is reasonable suspicion of harm or illegal activity.

8. Liability

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones or smart devices brought onto school premises. Pupils bring devices entirely at their own risk.

9. Communication with Parents/Carers

If pupils need to contact parents/carers during the school day, they should do so via the school office. Parents/carers who need to contact their child during the school day should call 01905 423710.

10. Information for Parents and Carers

10.1 How Parents/Carers Can Support This Policy

We ask parents and carers to discuss this policy with your child and reinforce its importance. Contact the school office if you need a message to reach your child urgently. Support the school's sanctions if your child breaches this policy and consider whether your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school at all

10.2 Requesting an Exception

If you believe your child requires an exception to this policy due to medical needs or SEND, please contact Mrs Wilcock to discuss this. All requests will be considered on an individual basis.

11. Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for:
- Consistently enforcing this policy
- Challenging any pupil seen with a mobile phone or smart device during the school day
- Recording incidents appropriately
- Being aware of pupils with agreed exceptions and supporting reasonable adjustments

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be communicated clearly to all pupils, parents/carers, and staff. It will be reviewed annually in light of any updates to statutory guidance by Senior leaders and the Governing Body

Policy approved by: Governing Body **Date of approval:** November 2026

Review date: November 2027