



## St Peter's Church of England Primary School Pupil Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Policy

The Governing Body of St Peter's Church of England Primary School adopted this policy on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Head Teacher)

Review every 3 years

**This Policy explains the rules and procedures regarding the use of pupil mobile phones at St Peter's Church of England Primary School**

### PUPILS

- Pupils in Year 4 and below are not allowed to bring mobile phones or smart watches\* to school.
- Pupils in Year 5 & 6 are not allowed to wear smart watches\* to school and are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school unless an absolute necessity.
- If Year 5 & 6 pupils bring mobile phones to school, the phones must be given into the class Teacher at the beginning of the school day where they will be kept in a secure locked cupboard. They can be collected at the end of the school day.
- If Year 5 & 6 pupils are attending the After School Club, their phones will be passed to the Club Co-ordinator by the Class Teacher where they will be kept in a secure locked cupboard until the pupil is collected by a parent/guardian/carer.
- Should parents need to contact pupils this should be done following the usual school procedures via the school office.  
(tel no. 0116 2775750 or email: [office@stpeters.embracemat.org](mailto:office@stpeters.embracemat.org))
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to have not handed their mobile phone in, the phone will be taken from the pupil, handed to a senior member of staff who will record the name of the child and attach to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored in the secure locked cupboard. Parents will be contacted before the end of the school day. The phone must be collected by the pupil at the end of the school day.
- If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to the School's Behaviour Policy.
- If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a teacher. Parents will be contacted immediately.
- Parents are advised that St Peter's CoE Primary School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into the school or school grounds.

This policy supports the school's Health and Safety, Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Internet Acceptable Use policies. It will be monitored, reviewed and amended as required.

\*A smart watch is one with internet capability, or the ability to send and receive messages or take photos. Watches used as fitness trackers only – ie FitBits – are allowed.

## **Appendix 4: Additions Required for Compliance with Updated DfE Mobile Phone Guidance (2026)**

This appendix outlines the policy elements that will be included in the next full policy review to ensure full alignment with the Department for Education's updated Mobile Phones in Schools guidance (2026) **to be adopted from April 2026**.

### **1. Phone-Free Environment (Mandatory Policy Requirement)**

The school will operate as a mobile phone-free environment by default, prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the entire school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtimes. Anything other than a phone-free environment must be an *exception only*.

- "Our school is a mobile phone-free environment by default. Mobile phones and similar smart devices must not be used, seen or heard at any point during the school day."

### **2. Inclusion of All Smart Technology with Similar Functionality**

The DfE guidance defines mobile phones to include all devices capable of sending/receiving messages or notifications, or recording audio/video (e.g., smartwatches, wearable tech).

- "This policy applies to *all* smart devices with communication/recording functionality (e.g., smartwatches, wearable devices), unless explicitly excepted for SEND or medical needs."

### **3. Consistency of Implementation Across the School**

Ofsted will evaluate how consistently staff and pupils understand and follow the phone-free policy across the day.

- Clear expectations ensuring 100% consistency across all staff and contexts.
- Staff must model adherence by not using personal mobile phones in front of pupils except where necessary.
- Leaders must regularly monitor consistency through walkthroughs, pupil voice, and staff feedback.

### **4. Communication Requirements**

We recognise the importance of clear communication to pupils, parents and staff.

- The mobile phone policy will be communicated through:
  - Website visibility (policies page).
  - Parent newsletters and start-of-year briefings.
  - Pupil assemblies and form-time reminders.
  - Classroom signage and site posters.

- Parents will be informed that the school operates a default phone-free environment and that consistent reinforcement and support of this at home is expected.

## **5. Reasonable Adjustments and Equalities Act Duties**

The DfE stresses the need to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, medical needs (e.g., diabetes monitoring), SEND or caring responsibilities.

- Reasonable adjustments may be made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, with examples such as:
  - Diabetes monitoring via connected apps
  - Emergency access for young carers
  - SEND-related communication needs

## **6. Behaviour Policy Alignment and Clear Sanctions**

Mobile phone rules will be integrated within the school's behaviour policy, including proportionate sanctions, confiscation rules, and search powers.

- Explicit link to behaviour policy.
- Clear confiscation procedures (duration, storage, collection).
- Clarification of when searching a device may be permitted, referencing DfE *Searching, Screening and Confiscation*.
- Sanctions must be reasonable, proportionate and consistently applied.

## **7. Rules for Trips, Residential and Sixth Form**

DfE guidance allows schools to decide rules for use outside the school day (e.g., residential) while maintaining a strict school-day ban, there will be:

- Clear expectations for:
  - School trips
  - Residential visits
  - Sixth-form privileges
- Any permitted use must not undermine the phone-free environment for younger pupils.

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Leaders must evaluate policy implementation, including:
  - Staff/pupil understanding
  - Patterns of breaches
  - Impact on behaviour, wellbeing and learning
- Evidence will be stored on CPOMs with regards to adherence to the policy and used to inform Trust-level reporting.

## 9. BYOD Clarification (New Requirement)

The DfE states that BYOD schemes must not include mobile phones.

*For schools that use this:*

- “Our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) arrangements apply only to tablets/laptops. Mobile phones cannot be used as part of any BYOD or digital learning scheme.”

## 10. Safeguarding Rationale

Updated guidance emphasises the link between a phone-free environment and reduced disruption, bullying, online harm, and wellbeing risks.

- *“Our no-mobile-phones policy is a core safeguarding measure designed to promote pupils’ safety, wellbeing, and positive behaviour. By maintaining a mobile-phone-free environment throughout the school day, we reduce distractions and support pupils’ ability to engage fully with learning in a calm, focused atmosphere. This approach also helps prevent online harm and image-based abuse, as highlighted in national guidance emphasising the risks associated with smart devices in schools, including messaging, recording and social media misuse.”*
- *“Removing mobile phones from the school day further minimises peer-on-peer issues, such as bullying, intimidation, and inappropriate sharing of content, which the updated guidance notes can be exacerbated by mobile and smart technology. Through this policy, we create a safer, more predictable environment where children are protected from avoidable pressures and digital risks, and where safeguarding remains at the centre of our practice.”*