



OVERBURY C E FIRST SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE AND SMART TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Date: September 2026

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Our School Vision

Discover, nurture and share God's gifts

At Overbury First School, we believe God has given each of us special gifts to enable us to learn and flourish as unique children of God. We seek to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly, fostering an environment where everyone is treated equitably and pupils develop into compassionate, responsible individuals who take care of each other, our community and the world in which we live.

Introduction

Our approach to the use of mobile phones and smart technology is underpinned by:

- our school vision – Discover, nurture and share God's gifts
- our school ethos – We look out for others
- our Christian Values – Generosity, Joy, Service, Forgiveness, Justice, Respect, Thankfulness, Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Wisdom and Truthfulness
- our Learning Behaviours

Our values are rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and central to this policy is our school ethos, 'We look out for others.'

"And so encourage one another and help one another... at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people."

1 Thessalonians 5:11–15

We recognise that mobile phones and smart technology are part of everyday life and can provide many benefits. However, their use in school can also create distraction and present risks to safeguarding, privacy, wellbeing and positive relationships.

In line with Department for Education guidance, Overbury C.E. First School is a mobile phone-free environment for pupils throughout the school day. This supports our commitment to providing a safe, calm and nurturing environment where children can focus on learning, develop positive relationships and look out for one another.

This policy sets out clear expectations for pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers and should be read alongside the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and Child Protection and Online Safety policies.

1. Aims

- To foster a positive and **compassionate** environment, in which all children can flourish and reach their full potential.
- To develop relationships based on **respect, generosity**, integrity and trust between all members of the school community, including parents and members of the Governing Body,
- To raise awareness of desired standards of behaviour by celebrating and rewarding occasions when children have been 'Values Champions'.
- To create caring, purposeful and safe learning environments

- To promote high standards of behaviour
- To appreciate children as they are and encourage them to value themselves and have high self-esteem
- To build upon strengths, overcome weaknesses and discourage anti-social behaviour
- To build a sense of membership and pride in our school and community
- To encourage self-discipline and personal **responsibility**
- To give children the confidence that issues relating to behaviour will be referred back to our school rules, our school ethos and the school's Christian values.

2. Pupils

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones, smart watches or other personal communication devices during the school day.

As a first school, we do not expect pupils ordinarily to need to bring a mobile phone to school. Where a parent/carer considers it necessary for their child to bring a phone, for example because of arrangements for travelling to or from school independently, this should be discussed and agreed with the school.

Where permission is given:

- the phone must be switched off before entering school;
- it must be handed to a member of staff on arrival and stored securely;
- the pupil must not have access to the phone during the school day; and
- it will be returned at the end of the school day.

Smart watches and other wearable devices capable of creating, sending or receiving messages, notifications, photographs, video or audio are not permitted for pupils during the school day.

Any personal device brought into school remains the responsibility of the owner. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss, theft or damage.

3. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances in which an individual pupil requires access to a mobile phone or other device.

Any exception will be considered by the Headteacher on an individual basis, taking account of the child's needs and the school's legal duties, including its duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils.

Any agreed arrangements will be clearly communicated to relevant staff and the pupil's parent/carer.

4. Staff

All staff are responsible for consistently implementing and modelling the expectations within this policy. Staff should not use personal mobile phones for personal reasons in front of pupils during the school day. Personal phones should be stored securely and should not normally be used while staff are teaching, supervising or otherwise working with pupils.

Personal devices must not be used to photograph or record pupils. Photographs or recordings required for educational purposes must be taken using school-authorised equipment.

There may be limited circumstances where the use of a mobile phone or smart device is necessary for a legitimate professional purpose, such as multi-factor authentication, school communication or a personal emergency/medical need. Such use should be appropriate, proportionate and consistent with safeguarding expectations.

5. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting the school's mobile phone-free environment.

Parents/carers are asked to:

- support and reinforce the school's expectations with their child;
- ensure that children do not bring mobile phones or smart devices to school unless an exception has been agreed;
- contact the school office if they need to communicate an urgent message to their child during the school day; and
- model safe and respectful use of mobile technology while on the school site.

Parents should not contact their child directly on a personal device during the school day.

6. Visitors, Volunteers and Contractors

Visitors, volunteers and contractors are expected to use mobile phones responsibly and must not use personal devices to photograph or record pupils.

Mobile phones should not be used while working directly with or supervising children unless their use is necessary for an agreed professional or emergency purpose.

Any concerns regarding inappropriate use of a mobile device should be reported to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

7. School Events, Photography and Recording

At school performances, assemblies and other events, the school will communicate clearly whether photography or recording is permitted.

Where photography is permitted, parents and visitors must respect the privacy and safeguarding of other children. Images or recordings containing children other than their own must not be published or shared, including on social media, without appropriate consent.

The school reserves the right to prohibit photography or recording where this is necessary to safeguard pupils.

8. Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities

The school will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for emergency communication during educational visits and off-site activities.

Staff may carry an appropriate mobile phone for emergency or school communication purposes in accordance with the visit risk assessment.

Pupils should not ordinarily take mobile phones or smart devices on educational visits. Any exception must be agreed in advance by the school.

For residential visits or activities outside the normal school day, the school will determine appropriate arrangements according to the nature of the visit and communicate these clearly to parents/carers.

9. Breaches of the Policy

If a pupil brings a mobile phone or smart device into school without permission, or attempts to use one during the school day, the device may be confiscated and stored securely in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Parents/carers will be informed where appropriate and repeated or serious breaches may result in further action.

Any incident involving a mobile device that raises a safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

10. Searching and Confiscation

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a mobile phone or other device contrary to school rules, the school will act in accordance with current Department for Education guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

The Headteacher will ensure that staff understand who is authorised to conduct a search and the procedures that must be followed.

Where information or content on a device raises a safeguarding concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed immediately. Staff should not unnecessarily view, copy, share or delete content from a device.

11. Online Safety and Education

The school's approach to mobile phones forms part of its wider commitment to online safety.

Through age-appropriate Computing, PSHE and Relationships Education, pupils are taught about the risks associated with mobile phones and online technology, including distraction, inappropriate content, privacy, online relationships and cyberbullying.

Pupils are also helped to understand the benefits of a mobile phone-free school environment and the importance of developing healthy and responsible habits when using technology.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that expectations are applied consistently across the school.

The policy will be communicated clearly to staff, pupils and parents/carers and will be published on the school website.

The policy will be reviewed regularly and updated where necessary to reflect changes to statutory guidance, safeguarding requirements, technology and the needs of the school.