



Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Policy



This policy has been adapted by Farnborough Road Infant School to meet the needs of our children and follows the Department for Education statutory guidance Mobile phones in schools (updated 29 June 2026), which schools should begin following from 1 September 2026.

Purpose

To ensure Farnborough Road Infant School is a mobile phone-free environment by default, protecting pupils from distraction and inappropriate use of personal smart technology while making appropriate exceptions and reasonable adjustments where required.

Introduction and rationale

Farnborough Road Infant School is committed to providing a calm, safe and nurturing environment in which children can learn, play, communicate and develop positive relationships without unnecessary distraction.

The Department for Education statutory guidance states that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default and that anything other than this should be by exception only. Schools should prohibit pupils' use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality throughout the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Given the age of pupils attending Farnborough Road Infant School, from 2 to 7 years, there is ordinarily no need for a pupil to bring a mobile phone or personal smart communication device into school. Our default position is therefore that pupils do not bring these devices onto the school site.

The policy supports our safeguarding responsibilities and our commitment to positive relationships, play, communication, wellbeing and high-quality learning.

Scope

For the purposes of this policy, references to mobile phones also include other personal communication and smart technology that has similar functionality. This includes devices capable of:

- sending or receiving calls, messages or notifications;
- accessing the internet;
- taking photographs;
- recording audio or video;
- communicating with another device or network.

This may include smart watches and other wearable communication technology. The policy applies throughout the school day and across the school site.

Expectations for pupils

Farnborough Road Infant School is a mobile phone-free school. Pupils should not normally bring a mobile phone or personal smart communication device to school.

Where a parent believes there is an exceptional reason for their child to bring a device to school, this

must be discussed and agreed with the Headteacher in advance. Where permission is granted:

- the device must be handed to an agreed member of staff on arrival;
- it will be stored securely during the school day;
- it must remain switched off;
- the pupil will not have access to it during the school day unless this forms part of an agreed reasonable adjustment, medical plan or individual arrangement;
- it will be returned to the pupil or parent/carer at the end of the school day.

Pupils must not use a personal device to make calls, send messages, access the internet, take photographs or make audio or video recordings while at school.

Smart watches and wearable technology

Children may wear a standard watch to school. Smart watches or wearable devices that can send or receive messages or calls, access the internet, take photographs, make recordings or receive notifications must not be used in school. Where these functions can be disabled, they must remain disabled throughout the school day. If this cannot be achieved reliably, the device should not be brought to school unless an individual exception has been agreed.

Exceptions and reasonable adjustments

The school recognises that exceptions may be required for individual pupils. Each case will be considered on its own merits and the school will comply with its legal duties, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with additional needs or disabilities.

Exceptions may include:

- a medical need where a device is used to monitor or manage a health condition;
- a reasonable adjustment for a pupil with SEND or a disability;
- assistive technology;
- exceptional safeguarding or family circumstances agreed with the Headteacher.

Any agreed arrangement will clearly identify why, when, where and how the device may be used. An exception does not automatically provide unrestricted access to a device throughout the school day.

Contact between parents and pupils

Parents and carers should not contact their child directly on a mobile phone or smart watch during the school day. If a parent needs to contact their child urgently, they should contact the school office. Staff will ensure that appropriate messages are passed on and will facilitate contact where necessary.

If a child needs to contact their parent or carer during the school day, this will be facilitated by school staff using the school's communication systems.

Responding to breaches of the policy

Our response will always be appropriate to the age and circumstances of the child and consistent with the school's Relationships Policy. If a pupil brings a device into school without prior agreement or uses one during the school day:

- a member of staff will take the device and store it securely;

- the child will be reminded of the school's expectations in an age-appropriate way;
- the parent/carer will be informed;
- the device will normally be returned directly to the parent/carer;
- repeated incidents will be discussed with the parent/carer and managed in accordance with the Relationships Policy.

Where the use of a device raises a safeguarding concern, the Whole School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed.

Searching and confiscation

The school will follow current Department for Education guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. Any search or confiscation will be reasonable, proportionate and sensitive to the age and individual circumstances of the pupil.

Photography, video and audio recording

Pupils must not use personal devices to photograph, film or record other pupils, staff, parents or visitors on the school site. Any unauthorised recording will be taken seriously, particularly where it creates a safeguarding, privacy or online safety concern. School-authorised photographs and recordings for legitimate educational purposes are governed by the school's safeguarding, data protection, online safety and acceptable-use procedures.

Staff mobile phones and personal devices

Staff have an important role in modelling the school's expectations. In line with DfE guidance, staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.

- Personal mobile phones should be stored securely and used only in appropriate staff areas or at times when staff are not responsible for supervising pupils.
- Personal mobile phones must not be used to photograph or record pupils.
- Where mobile technology is required for legitimate school business, safeguarding, multi-factor authentication or another authorised professional purpose, staff must follow agreed school procedures.
- Nothing within this policy prevents staff from accessing a mobile phone in an emergency.

Visitors, volunteers and contractors

Visitors, volunteers and contractors are expected to support the school's safeguarding arrangements. Mobile phones should not be used in areas where children are present unless their use is necessary for an authorised professional purpose. Visitors must not photograph, film or record pupils unless specific permission has been granted by the school.

Parents and carers on the school site

Parents and carers are asked to support our mobile phone-free culture and to be considerate when using

mobile phones on the school premises. Parents must not photograph or record children as this could compromise the privacy or safeguarding of other pupils. At performances, celebrations and events, parents must follow the specific guidance provided by the school regarding photography, filming and sharing images.

Educational visits and activities beyond the school day

Given the age of our pupils, children will not normally require mobile phones on educational visits or school activities. Staff will carry appropriate school communication devices and emergency contact information in accordance with the school's Educational Visits procedures. Any exceptional arrangement for an individual pupil must be agreed in advance.

Online safety education

Although our pupils are young, the school recognises the importance of establishing safe and healthy digital habits from the earliest age. Through the curriculum and wider safeguarding provision, children are taught in an age-appropriate way about:

- using technology safely and responsibly;
- asking a trusted adult for help;
- protecting personal information;
- being kind and respectful when using technology;
- understanding that photographs and messages can be shared with others;
- telling an adult if something online worries or upsets them.

The school will work in partnership with parents and carers to promote safe and appropriate use of technology at home and at school.

Roles and responsibilities

Governing Body

- ensure the school has regard to statutory DfE guidance;
- support leaders in maintaining a mobile phone-free environment;
- ensure the policy is reviewed appropriately.

Headteacher and senior leaders

- ensure the policy is communicated clearly and implemented consistently;
- consider requests for exceptions and reasonable adjustments;
- ensure staff understand their responsibilities;
- ensure mobile phone-related safeguarding concerns are managed appropriately.

Staff

- consistently model and reinforce the school's expectations;
- safeguard pupils when dealing with devices;
- report safeguarding or online safety concerns promptly.

Parents and carers

- support the school's mobile phone-free approach;

- ensure children do not bring mobile phones or smart communication devices to school unless an exception has been agreed;
- contact their child through the school office during the school day;
- reinforce safe and responsible use of technology at home.

Equality and inclusion

Farnborough Road Infant School is committed to inclusive practice. This policy will be applied fairly and sensitively, recognising that equality does not always mean treating every child in exactly the same way. Reasonable adjustments and individual arrangements will be made where necessary so that pupils with SEND, disabilities or medical conditions are not placed at a substantial disadvantage.

Useful links and guidance

- Department for Education – Mobile phones in schools (statutory guidance, updated 29 June 2026)
- Department for Education – Creating a mobile phone-free environment: school case studies
- Department for Education – Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents
- Department for Education – Behaviour in schools
- Department for Education – Searching, screening and confiscation in schools
- Department for Education – Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Equality Act 2010
- Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

Links to other policies

Relationships Policy; Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; Online Safety Policy; Staff Code of Conduct; SEND Policy; Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Updated September 2026

Signed _____ **Date** _____ **Headteacher.**

Signed _____ **Date** _____ **Chair of Governors.**