



**ST. KATHARINE'S C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



Mobile Phone Policy

Reviewed by	Headteacher
Review Date	11.09.2026
Date Agreed by Governing Body	18.09.2026
Next review date	September 2027

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1. Rationale

- As a Beacon 'Well School', we are committed to ensuring wellbeing remains central to everything we do.
- In line with Department for Education guidance, we are committed to maintaining a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.
- We are committed to ensuring that all pupils can flourish without the pressures, comparisons, or distractions that can arise from smartphone use

Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to the following items:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Handheld entertainment systems, e.g. video game consoles, iPods
- Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, laptops
- Wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems, e.g. devices used for word processing, wireless internet access, image capture and/or recording, sound recording, and information transmitting, receiving and/or storing

2. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE 'Mobile phones in schools'
- DfE 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents'
- DfE 'Behaviour in Schools'
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education 2026'
- DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school'
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: Advice for Headteachers and school staff'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- The implementation of the policy and procedures.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that the policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds.
- Reviewing the policy **annually**.

The Headteacher will be responsible for:

- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- The day-to-day implementation and management of the policy.
- Communicating this policy to the relevant staff members and the wider school community.
- Communicating what devices can be brought to school and when they can and cannot be used.
- Deciding how best to achieve a mobile phone-free school environment.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Negotiating incidents of cyberbullying in conjunction with the Headteacher, in line with the Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Applying this policy consistently and proportionately, including confiscating devices where appropriate.
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns to the DSL, or deputy, where misuse indicates risk of harm.
- Not using their mobile phones in front of pupils for any non-work related issues.
- Teaching pupils about the risks associated with mobile phones, other devices and social media, both in school and more broadly.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Initiating and managing responses to incidents with relevant staff members and in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Liaising with and reporting the relevant information to children's social care and/or the police, when it is necessary to do so.

Pupils are responsible for adhering to the provisions outlined in this policy.

- Ownership and responsibility

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing property that is lost, stolen or damaged either on school premises or travelling to and from school, and at school events.

Staff will be protected against liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to personal devices that have been confiscated as an appropriate sanction, provided that they have acted lawfully.

Pupils and staff should enable a personal PIN or passcode on all the devices they bring to school to protect their personal data, images and videos in the event that the device is lost, stolen or accessed by an unauthorised person.

3. Acceptable use

Smart devices for all pupils are prohibited at St Katharine's Primary School. This means that students must not bring smart devices (including Smart Phones and Smart Watches) onto the school site. A limited range of approved non-smart mobile telephone handsets (or 'Brick Phones') are permitted for children in **Year 5 and 6**. A number of exemptions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, including for medical, disability related, SEND or safeguarding reasons. All non-smartphones will need to be turned off when the children arrive at school, and they will be handed to their class teacher.

Staff members will be required to model expectations surrounding the use of mobile devices as specified in the Staff Code of Conduct.

4. Unacceptable use

- Bringing a smartphone or smartwatch onto site.
- Using a phone during the school day.
- Recording, photographing, or messaging on school premises.
- Refusing to hand in a permitted phone.

5. Adaptations and reasonable adjustments

The school will comply with its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments with regard to this policy where necessary. Adaptations may be made in exceptional circumstances and in response to a pupil's specific needs.

The school will not prevent pupils from using their mobile phones in order to manage their medical condition effectively, e.g. if a pupil is using a monitoring app on their phone to manage their diabetes.

Where a pupil has an agreed adaptation or reasonable adjustment that requires access to a mobile device, this will be permitted only for the specific purpose and within the limits set out in the agreed plan.

6. Cyberbullying

All personal electronic devices will be used in line with our Online Safety Policy.

Incidents of cyberbullying will be dealt with and reported in line with the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to the prevention of cyberbullying, regular teaching and discussion about online safety will take place as part of PSHE lessons.

7. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher and DSL.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to members of staff, parents and pupils by the Headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1- Approved Non-Smart Phones



Approved Non-Smart Phones



✓ Nokia 105 4G
2nd Edition; 2023 version
UK 1.8-inch version ONLY



✓ Maxcom MMI35LITE



✓ Uleway T190 4G
(also branded as Chakeyake)



✓ Easyfone Prime A6 4G