



St Thomas's
CE Primary School

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Primary School Mobile Phone and Smart Device
Policy (KCSIE 2026 Compliant)

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Part of



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Policy Statement

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. The use of mobile phones and other smart devices must support a safe, positive and distraction-free learning environment.

In line with **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026** and the Department for Education's statutory guidance "**Mobile Phones in Schools**", all schools should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**, with any exceptions being carefully considered and risk assessed. Pupils should not have access to mobile phones during the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.brownejacobson.com)

This policy aims to:

- Protect children from safeguarding risks.
- Reduce distractions to learning.
- Prevent cyberbullying and inappropriate use of technology.
- Minimise risks associated with photography, recording and online abuse.
- Support children's wellbeing and face-to-face social interaction.
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding legislation and guidance.

This policy applies to:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Governors
- Contractors
- Visitors

It covers:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smartwatches capable of communication
- Tablets with communication functions
- Devices capable of recording audio, photographs or video
- Any device able to access the internet independently

Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones

General Rule

Primary-aged pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones onto school premises. Where a parent considers a phone necessary (for example, pupils walking independently to and from school), permission should be sought from the Headteacher.

During the School Day

Pupils must:

- Hand phones into the school office on arrival OR place them in a secure agreed location.
- Not access mobile phones at any time during the school day.
- Not use smartwatches with messaging, internet or camera functions.

The school day includes:

- Before-school provision
- Lessons
- Breaktimes
- Lunchtimes
- Educational visits unless specifically authorised

This reflects DfE statutory guidance that schools should prohibit access to mobile phones throughout the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[brownejacobson.com\]](https://www.brownejacobson.com)

Breaches

If a pupil uses or accesses a mobile phone during the school day:

1. The device will be confiscated.
2. A meeting with parents will be arranged depending on the severity of the breach
3. Parents may be asked to collect the device.
4. Repeated breaches may lead to withdrawal of permission to bring a phone to school.

Photography and Recording by Pupils

Pupils must not:

- Take photographs of children or staff.
- Video record lessons or school activities.
- Make audio recordings without permission.
- Upload images or recordings from school to the internet.

Any inappropriate recording may be treated as a safeguarding concern and referred to the DSL.

Smartwatches

Smartwatches are permitted only if they:

- Function solely as a watch.
- Cannot access the internet.
- Cannot send or receive messages.
- Cannot record images, video or audio.

Smartwatches with communication functions will be treated as mobile phones and must not be used during the school day.

Staff Use of Mobile Phones

Staff have a professional responsibility to model safe and responsible use of technology.

Staff must:

- Keep personal phones out of sight during teaching time except in emergencies.
- Use school devices wherever possible for educational purposes.
- Never use personal devices to photograph pupils.
- Never communicate with pupils through personal social media accounts, messaging apps or personal telephone numbers.
- Follow the Staff Code of Conduct and Data Protection procedures.

Staff Photography

Images of pupils must only be taken using:

- School-issued devices
- Approved school applications
- Secure school systems

Images must be stored and deleted in accordance with school data protection procedures.

Visitors, Volunteers and Contractors

Visitors must:

- Follow school safeguarding procedures.
- Refrain from photographing pupils without permission.
- Not record staff or pupils.
- Comply with any instructions from school staff regarding device use.

Failure to comply may result in removal from site.

Searching and Confiscation

Where there is reasonable suspicion that a pupil is using a device contrary to school rules:

- Staff may confiscate the device in accordance with statutory guidance and school behaviour procedures.
- Any safeguarding concerns identified will be reported immediately to the DSL.

- Where illegal content or significant safeguarding concerns are suspected, the school will follow DfE guidance and seek advice from safeguarding partners or police where appropriate.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and whenever changes are made to:

- KCSIE
- Mobile phone legislation or guidance
- Online safety requirements
- Data protection regulations

The Governing Body will monitor implementation as part of its safeguarding responsibilities.