



Hunningley Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction and Rationale

This policy sets out the school's approach to mobile phones and smart devices in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

The UK Government states that **all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default**, with use during the school day prohibited unless there are exceptional circumstances. This includes lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote a safe, calm, and focused learning environment
- Safeguard pupils from risks associated with mobile phone use
- Reduce distraction and improve behaviour and wellbeing
- Ensure consistency across the school community

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors on school premises

It covers:

- Mobile phones
- Smartwatches with communication capability
- Any device capable of sending messages, accessing the internet, or recording audio/video

3. Policy Statement

In line with DfE guidance, this school operates a **mobile phone-free approach**.

- Pupils **must not use mobile phones during the school day** under any circumstances
- Devices must not be visible, heard, or accessed at any time
- The school reserves the right to confiscate devices if this policy is breached

4. Pupil Use of Mobile Phones

4.1 Bringing Phones to School

Primary-aged pupils are **strongly discouraged** from bringing mobile phones to school.

Where a phone is necessary (e.g. for travel safety):

- It must be handed in to the school office at the start of the day **or**
- Kept switched off and stored securely in line with school procedures

4.2 During the School Day

- Mobile phones must not be used at any time (including break and lunchtime)
- Phones must remain switched off and out of sight

This reflects government guidance that phones should be inaccessible throughout the whole school day.

5. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

- Staff may only use personal mobile phones in designated areas (e.g. staffroom)
- Phones must not be used while supervising pupils unless in an emergency
- Staff must follow safeguarding guidance regarding photography and communication

6. Parents and Carers

- Parents must not contact pupils directly during the school day via mobile phone
- All communication should go through the school office
- Parents support this policy by reinforcing expectations with their children

7. Safeguarding Considerations

Mobile phones can:

- Distract from learning
- Present safeguarding risks (e.g. photography, messaging, internet access)
- Contribute to bullying or inappropriate content sharing

The DfE highlights that restricting mobile phone use supports safeguarding and pupil wellbeing.

8. Exceptions

Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary, including:

- Medical needs (e.g. monitoring devices linked to phones)
- Special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)
- Exceptional safeguarding circumstances

These will be agreed with the Headteacher and clearly documented.

9. Sanctions

If a pupil breaches this policy:

1. The device will be confiscated
2. It will be stored securely by the school
3. Parents/carers may be required to collect the device

4. Repeated breaches may result in further sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy

Schools have the authority to confiscate devices used inappropriately.

10. Storage and Security

- The school is **not responsible** for loss or damage to phones brought onto site
- Secure storage arrangements will be provided where phones are permitted for travel purposes

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with changes to government guidance
- Evaluated through behaviour and safeguarding monitoring

12. Conclusion

This policy supports the Government's expectation that **schools maintain a consistent, phone-free environment** to ensure pupils are safe, focused, and able to learn effectively.

13. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date of last review: 15.6.26

Date of next review: 15.6.27