

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction and Aims

St Joseph's School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and productive learning environment. In line with current DfE statutory guidance, the school operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. This policy promotes safe and responsible use of mobile phones and supports safeguarding, behaviour and data protection responsibilities.

2. Relevant Guidance

This policy has been developed with reference to the DfE statutory guidance Mobile Phones in Schools (June 2026), Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Behaviour in Schools, and Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance. This policy should be read in conjunction with our school Behaviour policy and Safeguarding policy.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for enforcing this policy. The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy on a two-year cycle.

4. Use of Mobile Phones by Staff

Staff must not use personal mobile phones when pupils are present except in authorised circumstances. Staff must not use personal devices to photograph pupils or process confidential information.

5. Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils

The school operates as a mobile phone-free environment. Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing phones to school unless there is an approved exceptional circumstance. Any approved phone must remain switched off and handed to the office upon arrival and collected at the end of the day.

5.1 Smartwatches

Smartwatches with communication functions are not permitted in school and will be confiscated for parental collection.

5.2 Exceptional Circumstances

Permission may be granted on a case-by-case basis, for children to have access to a phone in the school day e.g. for medical reasons such as monitoring diabetes.

5.3 Sanctions and Searches

Schools are permitted to confiscate phones. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a safeguarding concern, criminal offence or serious breach of school rules, authorised staff may act in accordance with DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance. Any action will be lawful, proportionate and reported to the DSL where appropriate.

5.4 Emerging Online Risks

Mobile phones may provide access to AI tools, deepfakes, nudification applications, harmful content, exploitation and cyberbullying. Concerns will be managed through safeguarding procedures and referred to the DSL.

6. Parents, Volunteers and Visitors

Visitors, volunteers or parents must not have their phones out in and around school and should not photograph pupils or use phones where pupils are present at any time.

7. Loss, Theft or Damage

The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal devices.

8. Monitoring and Review

The school will review this policy in light of safeguarding incidents, statutory guidance updates, and annual filtering and monitoring reviews.

9. Safeguarding Concerns

The following may warrant safeguarding intervention: sharing, possessing, creating or distributing nude or semi-nude images or videos, cyberbullying, upskirting, threats of violence and discriminatory abuse.

Approved on:

Last reviewed: September 2026

Next review due: September 2028