



Mobile Phone & Smart Device Policy (DfE-Compliant, 2026)

Policy Statement

Mersey Park Primary School is committed to providing a safe, calm and focused learning environment. In line with the Department for Education (DfE) Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance (2026), the school operates a mobile-phone-free environment throughout the entire school day, including lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes. This policy applies to all pupils and covers mobile phones, smart watches, fitness trackers with messaging capability, and any device capable of communication, recording or photography.

Rationale

The DfE identifies mobile phones and smart devices as contributing to:

- Disruption to learning
- Safeguarding risks
- Bullying and harassment
- Loss of focus and reduced engagement
- Sharing of inappropriate or harmful content

This policy supports:

- The Behaviour in Schools Guidance (DfE)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- The school's SEMH and Behaviour Policy
- The school's Online Safety Policy

Expectations for Pupils

Bringing Devices to School

Pupils should not bring mobile phones or smart devices to school unless there is a clear, agreed safeguarding or medical reason (e.g., independent travel or diabetes monitoring). Permission is granted at the school's discretion. Parents must understand that the school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage of devices brought onto school premises or school-organised activities.

Management of Smart Devices on School Premises

Mersey Park Primary School uses the DfE-approved model where all devices are handed in on arrival and stored securely.

Arrival at School

Pupils must hand their device to staff at the school gate before entering the premises. Devices are stored securely for the duration of the school day. Pupils arriving late must hand their device in at the school office immediately.

Storage During the School Day

Devices are stored in a locked, monitored location. Pupils must not retain devices in bags, pockets or coats. Devices remain inaccessible until pupils leave the premises.

Collection at the End of the Day

Devices are returned to pupils as they leave the school premises. Pupils leaving early (e.g. appointments) will collect their device from the school office.

Prohibited Use

Mobile phones and smart devices must **not be used**:

- On school premises
- During lessons, breaktimes or lunchtimes
- For messaging, calls, photos, videos or internet access
- For any activity involving recording, sharing or posting content

It is a criminal offence to use a device to menace, harass or offend another person.

Searching, Confiscation & Sanctions

Searching Powers

In line with DfE guidance, staff may search for mobile phones or smart devices if they reasonably suspect a pupil is carrying or using one in breach of this policy.

Confiscation

Devices found on a pupil during the school day will be confiscated. Confiscated devices may be returned only to a parent/carers. Repeated breaches may result in the pupil losing permission to bring a device to school.

Misuse

Misuse of a device—including bullying, harassment, recording others, sharing images or posting content—will result in behaviour sanctions, including suspension, safeguarding procedures or possible police involvement for serious incidents.

Communication with Parents

The school will communicate this policy clearly through the school website and parent meetings. Parents must sign the **Mobile Phone & Smart Device Permission Form** if their child needs to bring a device for safeguarding reasons.

Responsibilities

Parents/Carers

Parents must ensure their child understands and follows the policy. They must support the school's behaviour and safeguarding expectations and acknowledge that the school is not responsible for device loss or damage.

Pupils

Pupils must follow all rules in this policy. They must hand in devices immediately on arrival and report any concerns relating to device misuse.

Staff

Staff will enforce the policy consistently. They will store devices securely and apply behaviour and safeguarding procedures where required.

Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if DfE guidance changes. Governors will monitor compliance and ensure alignment with statutory requirements.

Parent / Guardian Permission

I have read and understand the Mobile Phone & Smart Device Policy at Mersey Park Primary School. I give permission for my child to bring a mobile phone or smart device to school and understand that it must be handed in on arrival and stored securely throughout the school day.