

St Peter's School

Mobile Phone Policy



Purpose

This policy sets out the expectations for the use of mobile phones within the school. Our aim is to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment for all pupils while recognising that some older pupils may need to bring a phone for safety reasons before and after school.

General Principles

- St Peter's School discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones onto the school premises unless it is absolutely necessary.
- The school is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of any mobile devices brought into school.
- Mobiles phones must not be used during the school day or on the school premises.

Smartphone Restrictions

In support of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign, St Peter's School strictly bans smartphones. Pupils are NOT permitted to bring smartphones onto the school premises. The school recommends parents avoid providing children with smartphones or social media access under the age of 14.

This policy covers all personal mobile phones, smartwatches, cellular-enabled wearables, and internet-connected devices. Smartwatches and wearable tech capable of taking photos, sending messages, or accessing the internet are subject to the same restrictions as smartphones and are strictly prohibited on school grounds. Any basic smartwatch without cellular capabilities must be handed in along with mobile devices at the start of the day.

Pupil Guidelines

- Pupils in Nursery to Year 4 are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school.
- Pupils in Year 5 and 6 may bring a mobile phone to school only with parental permission.
- Upon arrival at school, all mobile phones must be:
 - Switched off
 - Handed in immediately to the class teacher
- Pupils must not use mobile phones anywhere on school grounds at any time during the school day. This includes before and afterschool.
- The use of mobile phones to take photographs, videos or recordings is strictly prohibited.

Safeguarding and Behaviour

- Any misuse of a mobile phone, will be treated as a breach of the school policy.
- Inappropriate use may result in:
 - Confiscation of the device
 - Parental contact
 - Further action in line with the school behaviour policy.

In accordance with DfE *Searching, Screening and Confiscation* guidance, school staff have the statutory power to search a pupil or their belongings if there are reasonable grounds to suspect possession of an unauthorized device. Any confiscated device will be locked securely in the school office. Confiscated smartphones or improperly used devices will only be released directly to a parent or carer at the end of the school day, not to the pupil.

Trips, Residential Visits & Extra-Curricular clubs

The rules outlined in this policy extend to all off-site educational visits, residential trips, and school-run wraparound care (including breakfast and after-school clubs). Mobile devices are not permitted on day trips or residential visits, trip-specific guidance will be issued to parents, but emergency communications will always be handled directly through school staff and leaders.

Staff and Visitors Expectations

In compliance with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE), all staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors must keep personal mobile devices switched off or on silent and stored out of sight in all pupil areas (classrooms, corridors, and playgrounds). Personal devices must never be used to take photographs, videos, or audio recordings of pupils, unless special permission has been given by the headteacher. Staff and visitors may only use personal phones in designated non-pupil areas, such as the staffroom.

- Staff and visitors are expected to model appropriate use of mobile phones and follow the school safeguarding guidelines at all times.
- All staff and visitors will sign an acceptable user agreement, which incorporates the use of mobile phones.

Special Exemptions

If a parent or carer feels that their child requires a smartphone or a phone earlier in the school for medical reasons, individual accessibility needs, or exceptional personal circumstances, they must speak directly with Ms Masterton so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required to ensure it remain effective and relevant. Parents requesting their child brings a mobile phone to school are required to sign the Mobile Phone agreement every year.

Mobile Phone Agreement

By signing, I agree by the school mobile phone guidelines:

- I will not bring a smartphone into school.
- My non-smartphone device will be clearly identifiable, switched off and handed in to my class teacher when I arrive at school.
- I will not turn on or use my phone until I am off the school grounds.
- I understand the school holds no liability for any damage or loss to my device.
- I have read and discussed the policy and am aware of what will happen if I do not follow this policy.
- I will not take any photos, video or sound recordings whilst in school.

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Child's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Relationship to child: _____