

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School



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Thursday 10th September '26

Parent/Carer Update: Mobile Phones in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has recently updated its guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in schools.

"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only." (*DfE guidance, June 2026*)

The DfE expects schools to implement policies that ensure pupils do not have access to mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, between lessons, at breaktimes and during lunchtime.

In response to this guidance, I have reviewed and updated our Mobile Phone Policy. The policy sets out expectations for pupils and also outlines the appropriate use and management of devices by staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors. It also includes guidance relating to educational visits and residential trips. The new policy will be on our website shortly.

For some time, the school has successfully managed pupil use of mobile technology through a "not seen, not heard" approach, with devices stored securely in pupils' lockers throughout the school day. This arrangement will continue.

Key Changes

Please note the following updates:

- Mobile phones will only be permitted in school for pupils in Year 6.
- Smart devices and wearable technology, including smart watches, will not be permitted.
- Any pupil observed using a mobile phone on school premises or within the school grounds will have the device confiscated. Parents or carers will be contacted and asked to collect the phone from school.



Exceptional Circumstances

Our policy recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where a pupil outside of Year 6 requires access to a mobile phone.

5.2 Exceptions for Special Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, the school may permit a pupil who is not in Year 6 to bring a mobile phone into school. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Parents or carers wishing to discuss such arrangements should contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team:

- Mr Alex Clark
- Mrs Sarah Oakland

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment for all pupils.

For any child with a mobile phone in school, as per the above details, parent/ carer 'consent' (via Arbor) must be completed – details of how to complete this will be shared over the coming days.

With kind regards,

Mr A. Clark
Headteacher



