

St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

March 2026

Date of last review	March 2026	Review period	Annual
Date of next review	March 2027	Owner	LGB
Type of policy	Recommended	Board approval	March 2026

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Care and Behaviour Policy, Online Safety Policy; Acceptable Use Agreement for Staff and Pupils with which it complies.

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1. Introduction and aims:

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary, we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community. Our policy aims to:

- promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use;
- set clear guidelines for pupil's use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers;
- support and develop children's learning and understanding of our whole school online safety rules;
- support parents in understanding the issues and risks associated with children's use of digital technologies.

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- risks to child protection;
- data protection issues;
- potential for lesson disruption;
- risk of theft, loss, or damage;
- appropriate use of technology in the classroom.

This policy is written in line with the latest DfE guidance; *Mobile phones in schools, Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day*; and is reviewed in line with any subsequent updates or additional guidance.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The Local Governing Body are responsible for this policy and the decisions made within. Any representations or considerations relating to the policy should be made in writing to the local governing body.

2.2 Staff All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy. Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

Ensuring the online safety of the members of our school community requires a whole school approach.

3. Use of mobile phones by pupils

We recognise that mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices are part of everyday life for many children. However, mobile devices are capable of more than simply helping a child get in touch with parents at the end of the day. Therefore, it is incumbent upon parents to understand the capabilities of the phone/device and the potential use and misuse of those capabilities.

The Local Governing Body has made the decision that;

No pupil is permitted to bring mobile phones on the school premises.

No mobile phones should be brought to school by its pupils, they must be left at home or with parents. This policy provides a very simple boundary which is straightforward to enforce as any mobile phone found at school would be in breach of the policy.

The reasons for this decision has been made with consideration of the following potential negative issues that may arise, for example:

- mobile devices may be lost, stolen or damaged;
- mobile phones are desirable items that may attract theft or attack of a child whilst travelling to or from school;
- mobile devices can prove a distraction to teaching and learning in school;
- mobile devices are fashionable items that place pressure within groups for others to conform;
- mobile devices may provide a means of bullying or intimidating others;
- risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the internet.

The Governing Body have also given consideration to the following:

- The need to get in contact with a pupil.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day.

- Safety of pupils travelling to school independently for Year 6 pupils only in the summer term.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary school recognise that some pupils in Year 6 as part of Secondary School transition, will have consent to walk to and from school in the summer term. These children and parents may feel safer if the child has a mobile phone on their person in case they need to contact a family member in an emergency.

The Local Governing Body has made the decision for these specific pupils that;

During the summer term, pupil mobile phones must handed in on arrival at school

On entry to the school each Year 6 pupil hands in their device to school staff to be kept in a designated area in the school office and these are then collected at the end of the school day.

The reasons for this decision has been made with consideration of the following potential negative issues that may arise, for example:

- mobile devices may be lost, stolen or damaged;
- mobile phones are desirable items that may attract theft
- mobile devices can prove a distraction to teaching and learning in school;
- mobile devices are fashionable items that place pressure within groups for others to conform;
- mobile devices may provide a means of bullying or intimidating others;
- risks associated with sharing images and with posting digital images on the internet.

The Governing Body have also given consideration to the following:

- The need to get in contact with a pupil.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day.

4. Use of smart watches by pupils

Holy Cross Catholic Primary school recognise that technology is becoming increasingly accessible and many traditional devices such as watches are becoming increasingly smart, as such definitions for items such as smart watches are complex.

The Local Governing Body has made the decision that;

Pupils are permitted to wear watches on the school premises.

Pupils are permitted to wear smart watches on the school premises providing that it does not meet any of the prohibited list below.

- Has communication tools – calls or messages – that can be accessed independent of a mobile phone.
- Has video or audio recording capabilities.
- Has image capture capabilities.
- Has features that cause distraction to teaching and learning, for example; games, virtual pets.

Pupils are not permitted to wear smart watches on the school premises that contravene any of the prohibited list.

5. Use of tracking devices

Tracking devices are emerging technology, whilst they may appear to have benefits parents must be fully aware of the pitfalls and weaknesses these technologies present.

- Tracking devices were predominantly designed for finding keys, property – including pets – or luggage.
- Companies that have brought such products to market have had to implement significant safeguards with regards to these devices being used for covert tracking in cases of Domestic Violence. An example of this is that Apple AirTags routinely result in Anti-stalking alerts on nearby devices such as staff or fellow commuter devices.
- Anti-stalking alerts of unknown origins may trigger significant distress to staff on a trip.
- Anti-stalking alerts create a safeguarding incident in that staff need to establish what has prompted the alert and whether the device is placed for genuine reasons.
- Safeguarding issues arise in revealing the locations of groups of children, which may include those who may have court orders, are looked after (fostered/in care) and those children that need to be protected from this tracking.
- Trackers fall under GDPR legislation. Location data is likely to implicate a group rather than an individual. Careful consideration needs to be made of who has access to the data and whether permission is required.

The Local Governing Body has made the decision that;

The covert (unknown to school leaders) use of trackers must not be used under any circumstance.

The use of trackers by parents to monitor children travelling to and from school must only be considered in full consultation with school leaders.

The use of trackers whilst on the school premises or during trips must only be used when in full agreement with school leaders and following a substantiated need identified within a Personal risk assessment.

The Local Governing Body does not believe the use of trackers appropriate in any but the most extreme of cases.

6 Sanctions

Appropriate sanctions will be actioned for any pupil in breach of rules for mobile phones and smart devices, or if a breach is suspected by staff, including confiscation of the device.

Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006).

If confiscated, the mobile phone or smart device will be held in the school office and must be collected by a responsible adult.

School will also investigate reports of inappropriate content or inappropriate usage including, but not limited to:

- bullying or harassment.
- sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos);
- upskirting;
- threats of violence or assault;
- abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and this will be dealt with reference to our *Care and Behaviour* and *Safeguarding and Child Protection* policies and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

The use of trackers without school knowledge will be considered a serious safeguarding breach. Planting trackers without knowledge, including placing a tracker within a group could be considered deliberate stalking which would fall under the Protection of Harassment Act.

7. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school. Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

8. Monitoring and review

Holy Cross Catholic Primary understand technology changes at a fast pace and this policy may need to be reviewed to incorporate new technologies as they emerge.

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will consider:

- feedback from parents/carers and pupils;
- feedback from teachers;
- records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents;
- relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations.