

Grange Primary School



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Pursuing excellence for every child

Mobile Phone Policy

Date Completed: June 2026

Review Date: June 2029



Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction & Statutory Framework

At Grange Primary School, the welfare, safety, and focus of our pupils are paramount. Our core business of teaching and learning must be conducted in an environment free from digital distractions, cyberbullying, and online safeguarding risks.

This policy reflects the legal requirements introduced under **Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026**, which mandates that state-funded schools in England operate as **mobile phone-free environments by default**. It also adheres to the statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance (*Mobile phones in schools*) and aligns with our overarching **Behaviour Policy**, **Safeguarding Policy**, and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all personal interactive communication devices, including:

- Mobile phones and smartphones.
- Smartwatches with notification, messaging, recording, or calling functionality.
- Tablets, SIM cards, or any other personal electronic devices.

This policy applies to all pupils while on the school premises, during the school day (including lessons, transitions, breaktimes, and lunchtimes), and while on school-led educational visits or trips

3. Rules for Pupils: "Phone-Free by Default"

Grange Primary School operates a strict "**Not Seen, Not Heard, Not On Site**" policy.

- **Prohibition:** Pupils are strictly prohibited from having mobile phones or any other interactive smart technology in their possession during the school day.
- **Trips and Residential Visits:** Mobile phones are completely prohibited on school trips. Emergency contact will always be maintained via the school-issued trip mobile phone.

Due to the new GDPR regulations we are unable to 'keep safe' any mobile phone brought into school therefore we do not permit any child to have a mobile phone in school at any time.

4. Statutory Exemptions: Medical and SEND Adjustments

In compliance with our duties under the **Equality Act 2010**, the school recognizes that exceptions to the default "phone-free" rule must be made for pupils with specific medical conditions or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

5. Enforcement, Search, and Confiscation

Breaches of this policy will be handled firmly under the school's statutory **Behaviour Policy**.

- **Confiscation:** Any unauthorised device found in a pupil's possession or heard during the school day will be immediately confiscated by staff.
- **Collection:** Confiscated phones will **not** be returned to the pupil. They will be stored securely in the main office and must be collected in person by a parent, carer, or designated adult.
- **Right to Search:** In accordance with DfE statutory guidelines, school leadership reserves the right to search pupils and their belongings if there are reasonable grounds to suspect they are concealing an unauthorized device.
- **Liability:** In line with national legislation, school staff are legally protected from liability for any accidental loss or damage to items that have been confiscated lawfully and proportionately.

6. Rules for Staff, Visitors, and Parents

To model professional standards and maintain robust safeguarding, the phone-free environment applies to adults as follows:

Staff:

- Staff must have their phones on 'silent' or switched off during class time.
- Staff may not make or receive calls, send or read texts during teaching time, playground duties and during any meetings. If there are extreme circumstances (eg. acutely sick relative) the member of staff will have made the headteacher aware of this and can have their phone in case of having to receive an emergency call.
- Use of phones must be limited to non-contact time when no children are present.
- Phones must be kept out of sight (eg. drawer, handbag, pocket) when staff are with children.
- Calls/ texts must be made/ received in private during non-contact time.
- Personal mobile cameras must **never** be used to take photographs of pupils or store their personal data. A school mobile will be carried to sporting fixtures away from school or on an educational visit for contacting parents in the event of an emergency.
- For staff who are not classroom based, mobile phones **must be on silent** and use **must** be restricted to time away from the children and any non-work related calls made should be done so in private.
- SLT will carry mobile phones in their school issued bags but will only be used for work related purposes (i.e. during a fire evacuation.)
- Mobile phones are not to be permitted in certain designated area of the school premises such as toilets and changing rooms.

Parents & other visitors:

- Parents and visitors must not use mobile phones while inside the school building or navigating the school grounds.
- Whilst in meetings, or school performances, mobile phones will be placed on silent or switched off.
- Mobile phones must never be used to take photographs in the school building or grounds unless there has been specific permission given and the picture only contains their child.

We very much appreciate our parents' support in implementing this policy in order to keep your children/ our pupils safe.

7. Data Protection Compliance

Grange Primary School handles all school records and communications in strict compliance with the **Data Protection Act 2018** and UK GDPR. Emergency communications between parents and pupils during the school day must always be routed through the main school office rather than via personal devices.

Date ratified by the Governing Body:	June 2026
Date last reviewed:	July 2024
Next review date:	June 2029

Virtually Signed by Chair of Governors: Mr S. Ryley	Date: 30th June 2026
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