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1. Aims

At Bridlewood Primary School, the welfare, safeguarding and wellbeing of all pupils are paramount. This policy aims to:

- Support a safe, calm and secure learning environment.
- Protect pupils, staff and visitors from risks associated with mobile phones and smart technology.
- Ensure compliance with current safeguarding requirements.
- Promote positive digital citizenship and online safety.
- Provide clear guidance regarding the possession and use of mobile phones and smart devices on school premises.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Relationships & Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Acceptable Use Policy

2. Legislative and Guidance Context

This policy is informed by:

- Department for Education (DfE) **Mobile Phones in Schools** statutory guidance (June 2026, effective from 1 September 2026), which states that schools should be **mobile-phone free environments by default** and should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](#), [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026**, which emphasises safeguarding children online and managing risks associated with technology. [\[gov.uk\]](#), [\[assets.pub...ice.gov.uk\]](#)
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

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- Data Protection Act 2018.
- Education Act 2002.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Governors
- Contractors
- Visitors
- Parents and carers

The term **mobile phone** includes any device capable of:

- Making or receiving calls
- Sending messages
- Accessing the internet
- Recording audio
- Taking photographs or video
- Receiving notifications via mobile networks

This also includes smart watches and similar wearable technology.

4. School Position

Bridlewood Primary School is a **mobile-phone free environment during the school day**.

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The use of mobile phones, smart watches and other communication devices by pupils is prohibited throughout the school day, including:

- Before registration
- During lessons
- Movement around school
- Breaktimes & Lunchtimes
- Clubs operating within the school day

This approach supports learning, behaviour, wellbeing and safeguarding.

5. Pupils Bringing Phones to School

The school recognises that, in exceptional circumstances, some pupils in year 5/6 may need to bring a mobile phone to school, for example when:

- Walking to and from school independently.
- Travelling between different carers.
- Meeting family members after school.

Where this applies:

1. A parent/carers must complete the school's Mobile Phone Agreement.
2. The phone must be switched off before entering the school site.
3. The phone must be handed directly to the class teacher upon arrival.
4. Phones will be securely stored during the day.
5. Phones will be returned at the end of the school day.
6. Phones must not be switched on until the pupil has left the school premises.

Pupils are not permitted to retain access to their phones during the school day unless an authorised exception has been approved by the Headteacher.

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6. Smart Watches and Wearable Devices

For safeguarding reasons:

- Smart watches capable of making calls, sending messages, accessing the internet, recording audio, taking photographs or videos are not permitted.
- Smart watches with cameras are not permitted.
- Basic fitness trackers without communication, internet or recording functions may be permitted at the Headteacher's discretion.

If a prohibited device is brought into school, it may be confiscated and returned to a parent or carer.

7. Photography, Video and Audio Recording

Pupils must not use any personal device to:

- Take photographs.
- Record video.
- Record audio.
- Share images or recordings of pupils, staff or visitors.

The unauthorised recording or sharing of images is a safeguarding concern and will be dealt with seriously.

Any concerns regarding inappropriate images or recordings will be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

8. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

Staff must ensure that personal mobile phones and smart devices:

- Are kept out of sight while working directly with children.
- Are only used in staff-only areas, offices or away from pupils.
- Are not used during teaching time except where authorised for operational reasons.
- Are not used to photograph or record pupils.

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School-owned devices must be used for educational or school business purposes, including photography and communication with parents where authorised.

9. Educational Visits

On educational visits:

- Staff must take a school mobile phone for emergency communication.
- Staff may carry personal mobile phones for personal emergency communication.
- All phones should remain stored away and only used when necessary.
- Personal devices must not be used to photograph pupils.
- School devices must be used for all authorised photography.

Risk assessments should identify any exceptional communication requirements.

10. Visitors, Contractors and Volunteers

All visitors are expected to:

- Follow this policy.
- Keep phones out of sight when working around children.
- Refrain from photographing, recording or filming pupils.

Visitors are informed of mobile phone expectations through the school's signing-in procedures.

11. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to support the school's safeguarding arrangements by:

- Avoiding the use of mobile phones while inside the school building and on school grounds.

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- Not photographing or filming children other than their own at school events.
- Not sharing photographs from school events on social media where other children may be identifiable.

The school reserves the right to ask individuals to stop recording or photographing where safeguarding concerns arise.

12. Safeguarding and Online Safety

Mobile phones and smart technology can present risks including:

- Cyberbullying
- Access to inappropriate content
- Unauthorised image sharing
- Online exploitation
- Privacy breaches
- Disruption to learning

The school teaches pupils about online safety through the curriculum and wider safeguarding provision in line with statutory guidance.

13. Loss, Theft or Damage

Bridlewood Primary School accepts no responsibility for:

- Loss of personal devices.
- Theft of personal devices.
- Damage to personal devices brought onto school premises.

Parents are encouraged to consider whether a child genuinely needs to bring a device to school.

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14. Breaches of the Policy

Where pupils fail to comply with this policy, the school may:

- Confiscate the device.
- Require collection by a parent or carer.
- Withdraw permission to bring a mobile phone to school.
- Apply behaviour sanctions in line with the Relationships & Behaviour Policy.

Serious incidents involving safeguarding concerns will be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and may involve external agencies where appropriate.

For staff, volunteers or visitors, breaches may lead to disciplinary procedures or removal from site.

15. Equality Considerations

The school recognises that some pupils may require access to a device for:

- Medical reasons
- Disability-related needs
- Specific safeguarding arrangements

Reasonable adjustments will be considered on an individual basis in consultation with parents, the SENDCo and safeguarding team.

Mobile Phone Policy Statement

Bridlewood Primary School is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and mobile-phone free environment throughout the school day. Any exceptions will be carefully considered and authorised only where there is a clear educational, safeguarding or welfare need.