



Mobile Devices Policy

April 2026

Review by April 2027

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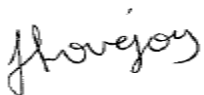
Statement of intent

At Abbots Farm Infant School, we recognise that children are very young and that mobile devices are not appropriate for use within the school environment. To safeguard pupils' wellbeing, privacy and learning, the school operates a mobile device-free policy for pupils, with very limited exceptions agreed in advance with the Headteacher.

For the purposes of this policy, personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to:

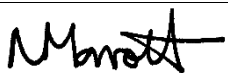
- Mobile phones
- Smart watches (including those with calling, messaging, camera or internet functions)
- Smart glasses or similar wearable technology
- Tablets or handheld entertainment devices

Signed by:



Headteacher

Date: 28/4/26



Chair of governors

Date: 28/4/26

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE 'Mobile phones in schools'
- DfE 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents'
- DfE 'Behaviour in Schools'
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education 2025'
- DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school'
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing body will be responsible for:

- The implementation of the policy and procedures.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that the policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds.
- Reviewing the policy **annually**.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Handling complaints regarding this policy, in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Overseeing the day-to-day implementation and management of the policy to ensure it is applied consistently and appropriately for the age of the pupils.
- Communicating this policy clearly to staff, parents and carers, and ensuring it is understood by the wider school community.
- Making clear to parents and carers which devices, if any, may be brought to school and the arrangements for their safe management during the school day.
- Ensuring that Abbots Farm Infant School maintains a mobile phone-free learning environment that supports pupils' safety, wellbeing and learning.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Managing and responding to any incidents of cyberbullying or misuse of devices, in conjunction with the Headteacher, and in line with the school's Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour and Relationships Policy.
- Applying this policy consistently and proportionately, taking into account the age and understanding of the pupils, including confiscating devices where appropriate.
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) where misuse of a device indicates a risk of harm to a pupil.
- Acting as positive role models by not using personal mobile phones in front of pupils for non-work-related purposes during the school day.
- Supporting pupils' understanding of safe and responsible use of technology through age-appropriate teaching and discussion, in line with the school's PSHE and Online Safety curriculum.

Pupils are expected, with the support of parents and staff, to follow the rules set out in this policy.

3. Ownership and responsibility

Parents and carers are responsible for any personal belongings that pupils bring to school. The school cannot accept responsibility for personal property that is lost, stolen, or damaged on school premises, while travelling to and from school, or during school events.

Staff will not be held liable for any loss or damage to personal electronic devices that have been confiscated in line with this policy, provided they have acted lawfully and appropriately.

Parents and carers are expected to support the school in ensuring that pupils take care of school property. Any school property that is lost, damaged or deliberately misused may need to be replaced.

Where personal devices are brought onto the school site by adults (such as mobile phones held by the school office), staff will ensure they are stored securely. Any adults bringing devices onto the site should ensure appropriate security measures, such as passcodes, are in place to protect personal data.

4. Acceptable use

Pupils at Abbots Farm Infant School are not permitted to bring or wear personal smart devices, including smart watches or smart glasses, onto the school site under any circumstances.

Pupils do not need mobile phones during the school day. Mobile phones should not be brought into school, except in the exceptional circumstance related to shared parental arrangements, as outlined separately.

From time to time, pupils may use school-owned mobile devices, such as iPads, under the supervision of staff, to support learning activities. This may include creating, recording, or capturing evidence of their work as part of curriculum provision. These devices remain the responsibility of the school and are used strictly in line with safeguarding and acceptable use expectations.

The school accepts no responsibility for the loss of or damage to any personal devices brought onto the school site.

5. Mobile Phones and Shared Parental Arrangements

In exceptional circumstances, where a child moves between parents' or carers' homes and a mobile phone is required for travel arrangements:

- The mobile phone must be brought to school by the delivering parent and handed directly to the school office at the start of the day.
- The mobile phone will be stored securely in the school office for the duration of the school day.

- The phone will be collected from the school office by the collecting parent at the end of the school day.
- Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones into classrooms, playgrounds or other areas of the school at any time.
- Mobile phones handed in under this arrangement must remain switched off while on school premises.

Failure to follow this procedure may result in the school refusing to hold the device.

6. Unacceptable use

The following are not permitted at Abbots Farm Infant School:

- Wearing or bringing **smart watches or smart glasses** onto the school site
- Carrying or using a mobile phone during the school day
- Keeping a mobile phone in a child's bag, pocket or coat
- Using any personal electronic device on the school premises without express permission

Any breach of this policy will be managed in a proportionate and age-appropriate manner, in line with the school's Behaviour and Relationships Policy. Devices brought onto the school site without permission may be confiscated and returned directly to a parent or carer.

7. Adaptations and reasonable adjustments

The school will meet its legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to this policy where required. Any adaptations will be made on an individual basis, taking into account a pupil's age, needs and circumstances, and will always be considered in partnership with parents or carers.

Where a pupil has a SEND or a medical need, and it is agreed that access to a mobile phone or similar device is necessary to support their wellbeing or safety, appropriate arrangements will be made by the school. This may include staff managing or supervising the use of the device during the school day.

The school will not prevent the use of a device where it is required to support a pupil's medical needs, for example where a monitoring device or application is used to manage a health condition. In such cases, use of the device will be carefully managed by staff.

In rare circumstances, additional flexibility may be agreed where it is in the best interests of the child's safety or welfare. Any such arrangements will be discussed and agreed in advance with parents or carers and recorded by the school.

Where an adaptation or reasonable adjustment is in place, access to a mobile device will be strictly limited to the agreed purpose, used under adult supervision, and managed within the boundaries set out in the individual plan.

8. Cyberbullying

All use of technology within the school will be managed in line with the school's Online Safety Policy.

Any incidents of cyberbullying or inappropriate online behaviour will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly in accordance with the school's Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour and Relationships Policy, with appropriate support provided to pupils and their parents or carers.

As part of the school's commitment to keeping children safe, pupils will be taught how to stay safe when using technology through regular, age-appropriate lessons and discussions as part of the PSHE curriculum.

9. Searching pupils

The school recognises pupils' right to privacy and dignity. Any searching of pupils or their belongings will be carried out only when necessary, in a calm, sensitive and age-appropriate way.

The Headteacher, or an authorised member of staff, may search a pupil's outer clothing or belongings if there are reasonable grounds to believe the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item, such as a mobile phone.

Staff will explain the reason for the search to the pupil in a way they can understand, seek cooperation, and reassure the child throughout. Where possible, searches will be carried out by a member of staff of the same sex, with another adult present.

If a mobile phone or similar device is found, it will be confiscated and parents/carers will be informed immediately. Where there are safeguarding concerns, appropriate action will be taken in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Pupils are expected, with adult support, to cooperate with staff. Any refusal will be managed in an age-appropriate manner in line with the Behaviour and Relationships Policy.

10. Sanctions

The school will respond to any breaches of this policy in a consistent, fair and age-appropriate manner, in line with the school's Behaviour and Relationships Policy.

Where the policy is not followed, for example if a personal electronic device is brought into school or used without permission, staff may confiscate the device. Any confiscated device will be managed sensitively and retained for an appropriate period, as decided by the Headteacher, taking into account the child's age, needs and any agreed adjustments.

Further actions to support positive behaviour may be taken in accordance with the Behaviour and Relationships Policy and will focus on helping pupils understand and follow school rules.

If a breach of this policy raises concerns about a pupil's safety or wellbeing, staff will follow the school's safeguarding procedures and report the concern to the DSL.

Any confiscated devices will be stored securely by the school until they are returned to a parent or carer.

Bullying or unkind behaviour involving electronic devices will be dealt with in line with the school's Anti-bullying Policy.

11. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed **annually** by the headteacher and governing body.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to members of staff, parents and pupils by the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **April 2027**.