

# **Charles Kingsley's CE Primary School**

## **Smartphone Free Policy**



**This policy was reviewed by the Governing Body:**

**Summer 2026**

**Next Review Date: SummerTerm 2027**

## 1. Purpose and Rationale

As a group of primary schools, we are committed to creating calm, focused and safe learning environments that support children's wellbeing, concentration and positive relationships.

There is growing national concern about the impact of smartphones on children's mental health, sleep, attention and social development. National guidance now strongly supports restricting mobile phone use in schools and Ofsted considers how effectively schools implement their mobile phone policies during inspections.

By adopting a **smartphone-free-by-default** approach across our schools, we aim to:

- Reduce distraction and anxiety during the school day
- Support safeguarding and data protection
- Reduce social pressure on children to own smartphones
- Promote healthy digital habits in partnership with families
- Ensure consistency for pupils and parents across all of our schools

### Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the Department for Education's non-statutory [mobile phone guidance](#) and [behaviour guidance](#). Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

## 2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff
- Parents, carers, visitors and volunteers
- All school sites and school-led activities, including trips

Throughout this policy, *mobile phones* includes smartphones, smart devices and any internet-enabled communication devices.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for consistently 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.

The headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years, reviewing it and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every 2 years.

#### 4. Policy Statement

From September 2026, our school will operate as a smartphone-free school.

The core expectations are:

- Smartphones and other smart devices are not permitted on school premises
- Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing primary-age children to own or regularly use smartphones
- Non-smart “brick” phones may be brought to school only for travel-related communication
- Where permitted, mobile phones must be handed to staff on arrival and collected at the end of the school day

This shared approach reduces inconsistency, confusion and peer pressure between schools.

#### 5. Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils

##### 5.1 Smartphones and Smart Devices

Pupils **must not** bring smartphones or smart devices (including smartwatches with messaging or calling functions) onto school premises.

If a smartphone or smart device is brought to school:

- It will be confiscated
- Parents/carers will be contacted
- Ongoing breaches may be managed through the school’s behaviour policy

##### 5.2 Non-Smart Mobile Phones (“Brick Phones”)

Where families feel their child needs a basic phone for safety reasons (e.g. walking to or from school independently):

- Only **non-smart phones** without internet access, cameras or apps may be brought
- Phones must be **switched off** on arrival
- Phones must be **handed to a member of staff** at the start of the day
- Phones will be **stored securely** and returned at the end of the day
- Phones must not be used on the school site

##### 5.3 Exceptions

Exceptions may be considered on a **case-by-case basis**, for example:

- Medical needs

- Young carers
- Specific safeguarding arrangements

Requests must be made in advance to the headteacher and may require written agreement.

All pupils granted an exception must comply fully with the school's mobile phone expectations.

## **6. Use of Mobile Phones by Staff**

Staff are expected to model responsible and professional use of mobile phones.

- Personal mobile phones should not be used where pupils are present
- Phones must not be used to photograph or record pupils
- Staff must not use personal devices to process pupil data
- Any required communication with parents should be via school systems

Any failure to follow this policy may result in action under staff conduct or disciplinary procedures. Further information on acceptable use of ICT can be found in Safeguarding, Child Protection and Online Safety Policies.

## **7. Parents, Visitors and Volunteers**

While on school premises during the school day, parents, carers, visitors and volunteers must:

- Keep mobile phones on silent
- Not take photographs or videos of pupils (unless other arrangements have been agreed)
- Not use phones in areas where pupils are present
- Use the school office as the first point of contact

Visitors will be reminded of these expectations when signing in.

## **8. Loss, Theft or Damage**

- Schools accept no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged
- Confiscated or stored phones will be kept securely
- Parents and pupils are responsible for ensuring devices brought to school meet policy expectations

## **9. Partnership with Parents**

We recognise that this policy represents a cultural shift for some families.

To support families, schools will:

- Share information about smartphone-free childhood initiatives
- Signpost affordable non-smart phone alternatives
- Offer space for discussion around individual circumstances
- Be mindful of financial, personal and practical considerations

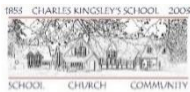
## **10. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed regularly by local headteachers and governing bodies, considering:

- Behaviour and wellbeing trends
- Safeguarding incidents
- Feedback from parents, staff and pupils
- Updates to national guidance

## **10. Approval and Adoption**

This policy is adopted by:



and will be ratified by each governing body.