



Lyne and Longcross C of E (Aided)
Primary School with Nursery

Mobile Phone and Mobile
Technologies Policy

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all pupils are safeguarded, able to learn without distraction and protected from the risks associated with mobile phones and personal mobile technology.

Mobile technology presents particular risks for primary-aged children, including:

- exposure to online content and contact;
- recording or sharing images without consent;
- cyberbullying and peer pressure;
- distraction from learning and social development.

For these reasons, the school operates a clear and firm approach:

mobile phones and personal mobile technology must not be brought into school by pupils unless a specific, pre-agreed exception applies.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- all pupils on roll at the school;
- all personal mobile and wearable technology; any device capable of sending and receiving messages; any device capable of taking photographs; any device capable of accessing the internet;
- the school site and school day, including before- and after-school provision;

educational visits, trips and residential unless otherwise stated

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, mobile phones and mobile technology include, but are not limited to:

- mobile phones (smartphones and non-smartphones);
- smartwatches and wearable technology;
- tablets, handheld gaming devices and smart devices;
- any device capable of:
 - accessing the internet,
 - making or receiving calls,
 - sending or receiving messages,
 - recording images, video or audio,
 - playing games or accessing apps

4. General Principle

Pupils must not bring mobile phones or personal mobile technology into school.

This includes:

- storage in bags, pockets or coats;
- use before the school day begins;
- use during lessons, breaktimes or lunchtimes.

Any device brought into school without prior authorisation will be confiscated and managed in line with this policy.

5. Pre-Agreed Exceptions

The school recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where a child needs to bring a device into school. These exceptions must be agreed in advance by the Headteacher.

5.1 Medical or Accessibility Needs

A mobile device may be permitted where:

- it is required to support a medical condition or disability;
- it links to or supports a medical or assistive device;
- written confirmation has been provided by parents/carers;
- a clear agreement is in place regarding:
 - purpose of the device,
 - limits of use,
 - storage arrangements.

The device may only be used for the agreed medical or accessibility purpose and will be used in the presence of a member of school staff. Parents must provide supporting evidence and documentation relating to the need for the device to be in school.

5.2 Independent Travel to and from School

A mobile phone may be permitted where:

- a child walks to and from school independently or uses transport independently;
- written parental permission has been provided;
- authorisation has been granted by the Headteacher.

In these circumstances:

- the phone must be switched off on arrival;

- it must be handed directly to the school office;
- it will be stored securely for the duration of the school day;
- it will be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

The phone must not be accessed at any point during the school day.

- Parents must submit a formal written request
- Parents must receive a written approval before the device is brought in to school
- The Child must ensure the device is switched off on arrival and ensure that it is handed to a member of staff at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. The device must remain off until off of school premises

6. Smartwatches and Wearable Technology

6.1 Permitted Smartwatches

Only basic, fitness-based smartwatches are permitted, provided they:

- do not connect to the internet;
- do not allow calls, messaging or social media;
- do not allow games, apps or downloads;
- do not have camera, audio or video recording capabilities.

6.2 Prohibited Smartwatches

Smartwatches are not permitted if they:

- allow communication with others;
- provide online access of any kind;
- include gaming or app functionality;
- pose a safeguarding or distraction risk.

Any smartwatch that does not meet the permitted criteria will be treated as a mobile phone under this policy.

7. Storage and Security of Devices

- Any authorised device must be handed to the school office on arrival.
- Devices will be stored securely during the school day.
- The school cannot accept responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal devices.

Parents are strongly advised to ensure that devices brought to school are insured.

8. Use of Mobile Technology by Pupils

Under no circumstances, using non-school devices, may pupils:

- make or receive calls during the school day;
- send or receive messages;
- access the internet;
- take photographs or videos;
- record audio;
- play games or use apps.

Any breach of these expectations will be treated seriously.

9. Unauthorised Devices and Confiscation

9.1 Confiscation

A device will be confiscated immediately if it is:

- brought into school without permission;
- seen, heard or accessed during the school day;
- used in any unauthorised way.

Pupils are expected to hand over devices immediately when requested by a member of staff.

9.2 Return of Devices

- Confiscated devices will be returned only to a parent or carer, not the child.
- Repeated breaches may result in:
 - extended confiscation periods;
 - a permanent ban on bringing any device to school.

10. Safeguarding and Serious Incidents

This policy supports the school's duty to:

- Prevent disruption to learning
- Reduce incidents of bullying, online harm and discrimination
- Protect pupil's mental health and sense of belonging
- Maintain a calm, focussed learning environment

Evidence of mobile phones contributing to poor behaviour, bullying, distraction or wellbeing concerns would indicate that leaders are not taking effective action. This policy ensures compliance with Ofsted expectations for Behaviour and Discipline

Any use of mobile technology involving:

- photographing or filming others without consent;
- online communication or sharing;
- bullying, harassment or intimidation;
- recording in toilets or private areas;

will be treated as a serious safeguarding concern.

Where necessary:

- devices may be examined by senior staff for safeguarding purposes;
- records will be made of any content viewed;
- parents will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable;
- external agencies may be involved if required.

11. Parental Communication During the School Day

Parents must not contact pupils directly during the school day via mobile devices.

All communication should be directed through the school office so that:

- messages can be passed on appropriately;
- staff can manage situations safely and calmly;
- pupils are not distracted or distressed.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- reviewed annually;
- updated in line with national guidance and safeguarding expectations;
- approved by the Governing Body.

School leaders will monitor:

- Consistency of implementation
- Any incidents involving mobile phones
- Impact on behaviour, safety and wellbeing

13. Communication

This policy will be communicated through:

- The school website
- Behaviour Policy

- Safeguarding Policy
- Induction for new pupils and staff