



ELEVATE
(DRIGHLINGTON & ROBIN HOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOLS)
MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH POLICY

JULY 2026
REVIEW DATE: JULY 2027

1. Policy Statement

The school is committed to providing a safe, secure and purposeful learning environment where pupils can learn free from unnecessary distraction.

The use of mobile phones, smart watches and other internet-enabled personal devices by pupils during the school day can adversely affect learning, wellbeing, behaviour, safeguarding and social interaction.

The school therefore operates a **mobile phone and smart watch-free school day**. Any pupil bringing such a device onto school premises must comply with the requirements of this policy.

This policy should be read alongside the school's:

- Behaviour Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - Online Safety Policy
 - Acceptable Use Agreements
 - SEND Policy
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2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Promote a positive learning environment.
 - Protect pupils from online risks and distractions.
 - Reduce opportunities for cyberbullying.
 - Support pupil wellbeing and positive social interaction.
 - Ensure consistency across the school.
 - Support safeguarding and child protection arrangements.
 - Clarify expectations for pupils, parents and staff.
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3. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils.

For the purposes of this policy, a device includes:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones

- Smart watches
 - Fitness watches with communication functions
 - Tablets brought from home
 - Any wearable technology capable of:
 - Internet access
 - Messaging
 - Telephone calls
 - Photography
 - Video recording
 - Audio recording
 - Location sharing
 - Receiving notifications
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4. General Expectations

Pupils are discouraged from bringing mobile phones or smart watches to school.

Where parents consider it necessary for a pupil to bring a device for travel or safety reasons, the following conditions apply:

- Devices must be switched off before entering school premises.
 - Devices must not be used anywhere on school grounds.
 - Devices must not be used during educational visits unless specifically authorised by the visit leader.
 - Devices must be handed in immediately upon arrival in accordance with school procedures.
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5. Storage Arrangements

Where a pupil brings a device to school:

- The device must be handed to the class teacher or designated member of staff upon arrival.
- Devices will be stored securely during the school day.
- Devices will be returned at the end of the school day.

The school accepts no responsibility for devices that are not handed in according to this policy.

6. Smart Watches

Smart watches present many of the same risks as mobile phones because they may:

- Send and receive messages.
- Access the internet.
- Take photographs.
- Record audio.
- Share location information.

Accordingly:

- Smart watches that have any of these listed features must not be worn during the school day.
- These Smart watches brought to school must be handed in with mobile phones.
- Fitness tracker style watches can be worn but must have notifications disabled.
- Basic analogue or digital watches that do not have communication functions are permitted.

7. Communication with Parents

Parents and carers should not contact pupils directly via personal devices during the school day.

If urgent communication is required:

- Parents should contact the school office.
- The school will ensure messages are passed to pupils where appropriate.

Likewise, pupils must not use personal devices to contact parents during the school day.

8. Safeguarding and Online Safety

The unauthorised use of personal devices may create safeguarding concerns.

Examples include:

- Taking photographs without permission.
- Recording staff or pupils.
- Sharing images online.
- Accessing inappropriate content.

- Cyberbullying.
- Misuse of social media.

Any safeguarding concerns arising from device misuse will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Searches, Screening and Confiscation

School staff may confiscate a device if:

- It is seen or heard during the school day.
- A pupil fails to follow this policy.
- There is reason to believe the device contains material that may breach school rules or raise safeguarding concerns.

Where necessary, authorised staff will act in accordance with current Department for Education guidance relating to searching, screening and confiscation.

Where safeguarding concerns exist, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be informed immediately.

10. Breaches of the Policy

Failure to comply with this policy will result in appropriate consequences.

First Incident

- Device confiscated.
- Returned to pupil at the end of the day.
- Reminder of expectations.

Second Incident

- Device confiscated.
- Parent/carers informed.
- Device collected by parent/carers.

Repeated Incidents

- Meeting with parents/carers.
- Behaviour support measures considered.

- Individual arrangements agreed.

More serious incidents involving recording, photographing, online misuse or safeguarding concerns may result in additional sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

11. Equality and Inclusion

The school recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Reasonable adjustments may be made where a device is required due to:

- Medical needs
- Disability
- Special educational needs
- Safeguarding arrangements

Any exception must be agreed in advance by the Headteacher.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Approve this policy.
- Monitor implementation.
- Review effectiveness.

Headteacher / Head of School

The Headteacher / Head of School will:

- Ensure implementation of the policy.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate guidance.
- Determine exceptional arrangements where necessary.

Staff

Staff will:

- Apply the policy consistently.
- Report concerns promptly.
- Follow safeguarding procedures where required.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will:

- Support the school's expectations.
- Avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day.
- Ensure pupils understand this policy.

Pupils

Pupils will:

- Follow the requirements of this policy.
- Hand devices in when required.
- Respect the learning environment of others.

13. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher / Head of School will monitor implementation of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed:

- Annually; or
- Earlier if legislation, guidance or school circumstances change.

Recommended accompanying statement for parents

To support learning, wellbeing and safeguarding, the school operates a mobile phone and smart watch-free school day. Any pupil who needs a device for travel purposes must hand it in on arrival and collect it at the end of the day. Smart watches with communication, internet or recording functions are treated in the same way as mobile phones and may not be worn during the school day. This approach helps create a calm, focused and safe environment for all pupils.