



Mobile Phone Policy

Core Values

Readiness

Resilience

Respect

School Values

Independence

Ambition

Compassion

Co-operation

Initiative

Enjoyment

Responsibility

Confidence

Celebration

Kindness

Honesty

Individuality

Approved: Summer 2026
Review: Summer 2027

Aim of this Policy:

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use.
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for children, staff, parents and volunteers.
- Support and work in conjunction with school's other policies, including the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Management Policy, our School Rules and Acceptable IT usage policies.

This policy also aims to mitigate some of the practical challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Data protection
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Poor mental health, such as depression and anxiety
- Issues with attention and sleep
- Risks of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content like violence or inappropriate material
- Smartphones can be addictive and distract children from learning important life skills

Rationale and statutory requirements

The government has introduced guidance which encourages all schools to introduce rules which prohibit the use of phones at school, to help children focus on their education, and the friends and staff around them. The guidance may be found at the following link: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/mobile-phones-in-schools)

The guidance sets out that there will be some limited cases where children should be exempt from the rules for medical reasons, or because they have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

This will include situations where, for example, a diabetic child may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Our strategic aims and objectives

By the age of 12, 97% of children own a mobile phone, but the use of mobile phones in school can lead to distractions, disruption and can increase the risk of online bullying.

The majority (63%) of 8-11-year-olds use social media and messaging apps, rising to 93% for children between 12 and 15 years old. By understanding which apps their children are using, parents can make informed choices about their child's mobile phone use and support schools in providing education about online safety.

Screen time can displace positive activities. Socialising, exercise, and good sleep are positive influences on wellbeing. All these can be displaced by screen time. Parents should be encouraged to consider the impact screen time has on their child's sleep and collaborate with schools to promote children's wellbeing.

One in five children have experienced bullying online. Data from Office of National Statistics (2020) suggests that one in five children (19%) aged 10-15 experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they experienced at least some of it at school or during school time. Around half of children (52%) who experienced online bullying behaviours said they would not describe them as bullying and around one in four (26%) did not report their experiences.

Three in ten children cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

Our practice

The Use of Mobile Phones by Children:

At Kender Primary School, governors and the school leadership team have made the decision to ban smart mobile phones from the school premises, subject to the exception below.

Only children from years 5 and 6 are permitted to bring a brick phone to school; We accept that parents/carers may provide their child with a phone to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. We acknowledge that providing your child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently either on their journey to, or from, school.

Please be aware that the school will be moving to a total smartphone mobile ban in September 2027. The policy will be updated to reflect that change.

Roles and Responsibilities

- All children are responsible for adhering to this policy.
- All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for adhering to and 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 Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for monitoring the policy, reviewing it, and holding staff and children accountable for its implementation.

Online Safety

- Kender Primary School is committed to monitoring and managing the use of mobile devices in the context of safeguarding and adhering to our obligations under the Department of Education's Filtering and Monitoring Standards.
- All mobile phone use at the school must comply with our Acceptable ICT Use Policies and Safeguarding Policy

Exemption

- If a child is required to bring a mobile phone to school, it is in agreement with the school. This exception would apply where children should be exempt from the rules for medical reasons, or because they have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This will include situations where, for example, a diabetic child may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Procedures

Where an exemption applies, children are required to:

- Turn off their phone before entering the school
- If for medical reasons, use their phone in the presence of a member of staff
- Not turn on their phone until they have left the school premises

Children in Year 5 or 6 are required to:

- Turn off their phone before entering the school
- Not turn on their phone until they have left the school premises

Theft and Damage

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Sanctions

Children who are found in possession of a mobile phone and are not eligible for an exemption will have the mobile phone confiscated. It will be kept in the school office and parents will be notified. The child will not be permitted to collect the phone without their parent/carer coming to the school and meeting a member of the senior leadership team.

The Use of Mobile Phone by Adults

This section does not apply to SLT who need access to their phones on occasion during the working day.

The Governing Body of Kender Primary School allows staff to bring in mobile phones for their own personal use. However, they must be always kept in their bags or cupboards and are not allowed to be used in the classrooms when children are present, in toilets, or in school play areas. If staff fail to follow this guidance, this should be reported to the Headteacher who will decide what action should be taken.

All staff should consistently enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.

Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of children throughout the school day.

This will empower staff to better challenge children to meet the school expectations and effectively enforce the prohibition of mobile phones throughout the school day.

If staff need to make an emergency phone call which would mean breaching this policy, they must do so from a school phone, make a call outside of the school premises or use their mobile phone in the staffroom.

Staff must ensure that there is no inappropriate or illegal content on their personal device.

There are digital cameras/iPads available within the school and only these should be used to record visual information within the consent criteria guidelines of the local authority and the school.

When children undertake a school trip or journey, mobile phone use by adult leaders should be limited to contact with the school office or venues being visited, except in emergencies and then only by approved telephones.

Members of staff may only contact a parent/carer on school approved mobile phones.

Use of Mobile Phones for Volunteers and Visitors

Upon their initial visit volunteers and visitors are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises. If they wish to make or take an emergency phone call, they may use the office telephone. Neither are volunteers or visitors permitted to take photographs or recordings of the children.

Use of Mobile Phones by parents on trips

If parents come on trips to support staff, they are given information informing them they are not permitted to use mobile phones on the premises. Parents are not permitted to take photographs or recordings of the children.

Monitoring and Review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on children' education, behaviour, and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will consider relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority, or other relevant organisations. This policy will be reviewed every three years.

APPENDIX 1
Non Smart (Brick) Mobile Phone Agreement (Year 5 and 6 only)

Parent

1. I will ensure my child understands that the phone must **not** be turned on within the school grounds **at any time whatsoever**.
2. I accept responsibility for the mobile phone my child has brought on to school premises. I understand that the school does not accept liability for the phone.
3. I understand that my child will not turn the phone on until they have left the school premises.
4. I have read and understood the Kender Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

Signed by Parent/Carer

Name of Parent/Carer

Date

Child

1. I understand that I may not turn my mobile phone on at school at any time.
2. I will not turn my phone on until I have left the school gates.
3. I understand that I will not be allowed to bring a phone to school again if I turn it on at school or leave it in my school bag, and that my phone will be confiscated if I do so.
4. I understand that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to bully, harass or offend another person.

Signed by Child

Name of Child

Mobile phone number

Date

APPENDIX 2

Smart Mobile Phone Agreement under exemption of the Equality Act 2010

Child Information	
Child Name:	
Parent/Guardian Name(s):	
Contact Number(s):	
Exemption Request	
Reason for Request: (Clearly state the medical/SEND reason the child needs to have a mobile phone with them during school hours. Examples: monitoring blood sugar levels, managing allergies, or for communication in case of emergencies.)	
Specific Needs: (Explain how the phone will be used to address the reasons for the request. For example, will it be used to access a specific app, to take photos for monitoring, or to communicate with parents/guardians) Specify how often the student is expected to use the phone for medical purposes during school hours.	
Evidence from a professional to support the request	
Signature from parents/carers to always adhere to school policy	
Signature from child to always adhere to school policy	
Date	