



Our Mobile Phone & Smart Device Policy: What Parents Need to Know

At Florence Melly Community Primary School, we want every child to learn in a calm, safe and distraction-free environment. To support this, we follow the latest Department for Education guidance, which says that all schools **operate as mobile-phone-free environments by default!**

Here's what this means for you and your child:

Pupils must not use mobile phones in school

- Children should not bring a phone to school unless they walk home by themselves (Year 6, or some Year 5 pupils in the Summer term).
- If your child does need to bring a phone, you must request permission first.
- Phones must be switched off before entering school and handed to the Class Teacher for safe storage until home time.



Smartwatches

- Children may wear basic smartwatches (e.g., step counters).
- However, smartwatches that can make calls, send messages, record audio/video or access the internet cannot be used in school.
- Any smartwatch worn must be on silent mode all day and must not be used during lessons, playtime or lunchtime.



Need to contact your child?

Please call the school office. We will always ensure messages reach your child quickly and safely. This helps us keep all children protected and avoids the problems that personal phones can create in school.



What happens if a device is used without permission?

- It will be confiscated and kept safely until a parent/carer collects it.
- Repeated misuse may lead to further consequences in line with our school behaviour and relationships policy.
- Serious misuse (e.g., recording others) will be treated very seriously.

We will always support individual needs

If your child requires access to a device for medical, SEND, safeguarding or other essential reasons, please speak to us. We will work with you to make reasonable adjustments that keep your child safe and included.

Why this matters

Mobile phones and smart devices can cause:

- distraction from learning
- difficulties with friendships
- safeguarding concerns
- exposure to inappropriate content

Removing devices during the school day helps children to focus, feel safe, and enjoy school without these pressures.

Any questions?

We are always happy to help. Please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff if you would like to discuss this policy further.

We Are a Mobile-Free Zone - that means all of us!

To protect children and maintain a safe, respectful environment:

Everyone on site must follow our mobile-free expectations!

- Parents and visitors must not use phones anywhere children are present - including the playground, reception area, or in school if they are visiting.
- If you need to make or take a call, please move to a designated area away from pupils.
- Staff also follow these rules: phones must be switched off or kept away during the school day, and smartwatches must be in School Mode/Aeroplane Mode except at break or lunchtime.
- Visitors are also asked to switch smartwatches to School/Aeroplane Mode when signing in.

This helps us protect children's privacy, reduce distractions, and model the behaviour we expect from pupils.

Thank you for your support.