

BRINDISHE FEDERATION Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy

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Aim of this Policy:

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible mobile phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones on the school premises and off site during school activities, for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support and work in conjunction with school's other policies, including the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Management Policy 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:

By the age of 12, 97% of pupils 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. By prohibiting the use of mobile phones during break and lunchtimes at school as well as in lessons, more time for socialising and exercise can be created during the school day. 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 have experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they have 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 pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones from schools and reducing the use of them overall, 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.

The government has introduced guidance which encourages all schools to introduce rules which prohibit the use of mobile phones at school, to help pupils 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](#)

The guidance sets out that there will be some limited cases where pupils 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 pupil may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Roles and Responsibilities

- All pupils are responsible for adhering to this policy with their support from their parents / carers.
- 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 pupils accountable for its implementation.

Online Safety

- The Brindishe Federation 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 also comply with our Acceptable ICT Use Policies and Safeguarding Policy

Smartwatches

Smartwatches are not permitted for pupils and must not be brought into school. This includes any device capable of sending or receiving calls, messages, or notifications. Staff who choose to wear a smartwatch must ensure that all notifications are switched off and that the device does not interrupt teaching and learning or compromise safeguarding expectations. Visitors, volunteers, and parents entering the school are also required to disable smartwatch notifications for the duration of their time on site, in line with the school's expectations for maintaining a safe and focused environment.

The Use of Mobile Phones by Children:

At the Brindishe Federation, only pupils in Year 6 are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school; however, this will need to be handed in at the school office on arrival at school and can be collected at the end of the school day. We understand that some parents/carers wish to provide their child with a phone with the intention to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. We acknowledge that providing your child with a mobile phone gives some parents reassurance that they could potentially contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently either on their journey to, or from, school.

However, please be aware that following the principles and rationale previously described, the school will be moving to a total mobile ban in September 2027. The current policy will therefore be updated to reflect that change.

Responsibility:

All staff, pupils and parents/carers have a responsibility to adhere to this policy. If a pupil who is not in year 6 is required to bring a mobile phone to school, an exception may be made, in agreement with the school. This exception would apply where pupils 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 pupil may need to use their phone as a monitoring device, as required by the Equality Act 2010. Other reasons for exemption may be discussed with the school.

Procedures:

Pupils in year 6 only, who wish to bring a mobile phone in to school, are required to:

- Turn off their phone before entering the school
- Hand the phone to the office for safekeeping
- If for medical reasons, use their phone in the presence of a member of staff
- Collect their phone at the end of the school day and not turn on their phone until they have left the school premises

Where an exemption applies for a pupils-who is not in year 6, allowing them to bring mobile phone into school, pupils are required to follow the same procedure as above.

Where a pupil in year 6, or not in year 6 but with an agreed exemption, is intending to bring a mobile phone into school, the pupil and a parent must sign the Mobile Phone Agreement (Appendix 1).

Theft and Damage:

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

Sanctions:

Pupils in year 6 who are found to have a mobile phone on their person which they have not handed in to the office, will have the mobile phone confiscated. It will be kept in the school office and parents will be notified. The pupil 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.

Pupils who are not in year 6, and are not eligible for an exemption, who are found to have a mobile phone on their person, will also have the mobile phone confiscated. It will be kept in the school office and parents will be notified. The pupil 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:

The Governing Body of the Brindishe Federation 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 the corridors, in toilets, or in school play areas. If staff fail to follow this guidance, this should be reported to a member of SLT 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 pupils throughout the school day as this will empower staff to better challenge pupils 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 or school mobile phones 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. During an extended period of time away, **staff may use their phones to call 'home' etc but must ensure it is in a private space away from the children.**

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

Use of School Mobile Phones:

Staff who have been issued with a school mobile phone may use this device strictly for professional purposes, including safeguarding, communication with colleagues, and other school-approved activities. School-issued phones must be used in line with the Federation acceptable use and safeguarding policies at all times.

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.

Monitoring and Review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' 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 in Summer 2027, ahead of a planned full mobile phone ban.

APPENDIX 1

Mobile Phone Agreement

Parent

1. I will ensure my child understands that their mobile phone must **not** be turned on within the school grounds **at any time whatsoever**.
2. I will ensure my child understands that the mobile phone is given directly to the school office on arrival in a **named, zipped purse/case or cover**. **I understand that the mobile phone may not be kept in my child's school bag.**
3. 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 mobile phone.
4. I understand that my child is responsible for collecting the mobile phone from the school office and will not turn the mobile phone on until they have left the school premises.
5. I have read and understood the Brindishe Federation Mobile Phone Policy

Signed by Parent/Carer

Name of Parent/Carer

Date

Pupil

1. I understand that I may not turn my mobile phone on at school at any time.
2. I will ensure I hand my mobile phone directly to the school office as soon as I arrive at school in a **named, zipped purse/case or cover** and that I will collect it after school.
3. I will not turn my mobile phone on until I have left the school gates.
4. I understand that my mobile phone will be confiscated if I leave it in my school bag or turn it on, and that if this happens, I will not be allowed to bring a mobile phone to school again .
5. I understand that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to bully, harass or offend another person.

Signed by Pupil

Name of Pupil

Mobile phone number

Date

APPENDIX 2

Mobile Phone Agreement under exemption of the Equality Act 2010

Pupil Information	
Pupil Name:	
Parent/Guardian Name(s):	
Contact Number(s):	
Exemption Request	
Reason for Request: (Clearly state the medical/SEND reason the pupil 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 pupil to always adhere to school policy	
Date	

