

ABBNEY HILL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



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MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS POLICY

Date policy agreed:	June 2026
Date of next review:	July 2028
Headteacher signature:	
Chair of Governors' signature:	



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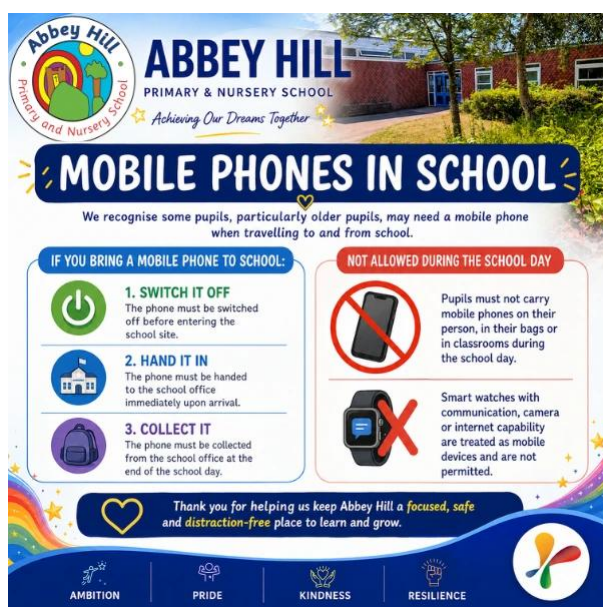
Purpose

At Abbey Hill Primary and Nursery School, our priority is to provide a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment for all pupils.

In line with Department for Education [guidance](#), Abbey Hill operates as a mobile-phone-free school. Pupils do not have access to mobile phones or smart devices during the school day.

Bringing a Mobile Phone to School

Parents and carers are encouraged to consider carefully whether a pupil needs to bring a mobile phone to school.



The guidance recognises that schools may require devices to be handed in, securely stored and returned at the end of the day. As a result, Abbey Hill Primary and Nursery School requires all mobile phones and smart devices brought onto the school site to be switched off and handed to the school office for the duration of the school day.

We recognise some pupils, particularly older pupils, may need a mobile phone when travelling to and from school. Where a pupil brings a mobile phone to school:

- The phone must be **switched off before entering the school site.**
- The phone must be **handed to the school office immediately upon arrival.**
- The phone must be collected from the school office at the end of the school day.

Pupils must not carry mobile phones on their person, in their bags or in classrooms during the school day. Smart watches with communication, camera or internet capability are treated as mobile devices and are not permitted.

Responsibility for Devices

Whilst the school will take reasonable steps to store devices securely, devices are brought to school at the owner's risk. The school will not normally accept responsibility for loss, theft or accidental damage.



Breaches of this Policy

Where a pupil fails to follow this policy, staff will respond in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. Responses will be proportionate to the nature and circumstances of the breach and may include:

- confiscation of the device;
- the device being retained for a period determined by the school;
- behaviour consequences in line with full breadth of our Behaviour Policy;
- parental contact;
- requiring a parent or carer to collect the device from school.

Repeated breaches of this policy, refusal to hand over a device, misuse of a device, or behaviour linked to bullying, safeguarding concerns, inappropriate recording or online harm may be treated as serious behaviour and escalated in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Searching for Devices

The Department for Education's *Searching, Screening and Confiscation* guidance permits schools to search for items banned under school rules where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil is in possession of them. As mobile phones and similar devices are restricted under this policy, Abbey Hill Primary and Nursery School reserves the right to undertake searches in accordance with this guidance and relevant legislation.

Safeguarding and Appropriate Use

The school takes seriously any misuse of devices, including:

- Taking photographs, videos or recording without permission.
- Sharing images or content that may cause harm, distress or embarrassment.
- Bullying, intimidation or harassment using technology.
- Accessing inappropriate online content.

In accordance with Department for Education guidance and safeguarding responsibilities, the school may examine, retain or pass information from an electronic device to relevant agencies where this is lawful, proportionate and necessary to protect pupils, staff or the wider school community.

Any misuse of a device involving photography, filming, recording, online bullying, harassment, intimidation, humiliation or the sharing of inappropriate content will be treated as a serious behaviour incident and managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and safeguarding procedures.

Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:



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- Department for Education: Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance (2026)
- Department for Education: Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance
- Education Act 1996
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Behaviour in Schools Guidance

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and compliant with current guidance and legislation.



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