

Hartismere Family of Schools



Mobile Phone Policy

This policy reflects the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance *Mobile Phones in Schools*, effective from June 2026, available [here](#).

Children play, make friends and learn, in calm, safe and focused environments. The schools within the trust are committed to ensuring children can engage in school life without the distraction of phones and pressures of social media connectivity.

1. Scope

This policy applies to pupils of all ages and covers:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches capable of communication, messaging, recording or internet access
- Other personal smart technology with similar functionality

The word 'device' is used throughout this policy, to refer to these items.

2. Policy statement

Devices should not be seen, heard or used during the school day unless a member of staff has given specific permission or an agreed exception applies. The school day includes registration, lesson time, social times and other supervised school activities, such as extra-curricular clubs and trips.

3. Agreed exceptions

Some pupils may need access to a device for:

- Medical needs
- Disabilities or SEND requirements
- Individual safeguarding arrangements
- Other exceptional circumstances

Agreed exceptions will be authorised by the appropriate member of staff, in consultation with the child, parents/ carers and other school staff.

4. School Arrangements

Each school within the trust has its own arrangements for managing devices brought into school. Their chosen arrangements are communicated to pupils and parents and are available on their school website.

5. Breaches of the Policy

Where a pupil breaches this policy, the school is permitted to:

- Confiscate the device for whatever period of time they consider proportionate;

- Require parents or carers to collect the device at the end of the school day/ nominated school day, rather than returning it to the child; and
- Implement other appropriate sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation and the DfE's guidance on mobile phones in schools.

Repeated breaches may result in additional sanctions.

School staff are protected from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully.

6. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers should contact the school office if they need to communicate urgent information to their child during the school day. Pupils who need to contact home may do so through school arrangements.

7. Monitoring and Review

Headteachers are responsible for implementing this policy through their own school-base arrangements and ensuring consistency across this policy and their school arrangements.