

# Shoreham Beach Primary School



## Mobile Device Policy

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*"I have always been clear that mobile phones have no place in schools - I know many of you feel the same. But it is clear that the previous guidance did not deliver the clarity or consistency that schools need, or help enough in setting out for parents that this is a clear national position. That is why we have strengthened it to be explicit - all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. That includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. It means, for example, it is not appropriate for phones to be used as calculators, or for research during lessons."*

*Bridget Phillipson (Secretary of State for Education, January 2026)*

## **Our Policy**

At Shoreham Primary School, we recognise that mobile phones and similar devices, including smartphones, tablets and smart watches, are part of everyday life. However, the use of Mobile Phones, Smart Phones, Smart Watches and other wearable Smart Technology **is not permitted in school**.

Our policy aims to:

- Protect our pupil's welfare and well-being
- Promote safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones and smart technology for pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers in relation to school
- Support the school's other policies,

Our policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

**Note:** throughout this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to any phone or smart phone. Where Smart Technology is referenced, this includes all wearable technology such as smart watches that have capabilities beyond the primary function of time keeping.

## **Rationale**

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches and other wearable Smart Technology are becoming increasingly popular with primary age children. However, the ability to connect to the internet, take photos and connect to social media through these devices could result in misuse in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils and/or teachers. Additionally, they could unknowingly jeopardise the safety and security of those in the school or present safeguarding risks. The use of Mobile Phones, Smart Phones, Smart Watches and other wearable Smart Technology is not permitted in school.

This policy explains the rules around specific devices.

## **Mobile phones**

In the rare event that a parent/carer wishes for their Year 6 child to bring a mobile phone to school to contact their child after school or to track them on their walk/bus journey to and from school; there are clear rules that must be followed:

- It has been agreed between the parent and the Year 6 class teacher that a mobile phone will be on the pupil as they enter the school premises
- Mobile phones should be switched off and handed in to the class teacher. It should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own. The phone will be returned to the child at the end of the school day
- Parents are advised that Shoreham Beach Primary School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or onto school premises
- Pupils that need a mobile device for a medical reason (e.g. Diabetes Type 1) will be allowed such a device once the school has gained advice and confirmation from the Nursing/Diabetic Service
- Mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and must be collected by the parent/carer.

## **Smart Watches and Wearable Technology**

Due to the increasing capabilities of smart watches, including cameras, internet capability and other recording devices, pupils are **not permitted to wear a Smart Watch in school**.

Digital Watches without independent connectivity and cameras may be worn providing they are being used as normal watches and for no other function beyond telling the time.

Staff must be satisfied that this is the case.

Where a pupil is found to be wearing a Smart Watch in school, it will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the watch. The smart watch will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the watch at the end of the school day accompanied by their parent/carer.

## **Electronic Tablets**

Electronic Tablets should not be brought to school.

## **Breaching Policy**

The school has the right to examine the data or files on any mobile phone, device or smart watch if there is a good reason to do so (DfE guidance Searching, Screening and Confiscation July 2022). In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to examine the data or files, school staff should reasonably suspect that the data or file on the device has been, or could be used, to cause harm, undermine the safe environment of the school and disrupt teaching, or be used to commit an offence. In the unlikely event of needing to do this, we will endeavour to contact a parent or carer before any search is undertaken. As part of this agreement, your child must unlock the device immediately, when requested by a member of staff. If a pupil is found to have taken photographs, video footage or audio recording with any mobile phone, device or smart technology, whilst in school, the device will be confiscated and this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to erase any data or files from the device, the member of staff should consider whether the material found may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. If the data or files are not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, the device will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil/responsible adult in the presence of a senior teacher.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Up skirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

In those instances, the data or files should not be deleted, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

## **Staff**

Staff (including governors, volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to use their personal mobile phone, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time for personal reasons. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- Expecting a call from a medical professional
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members
- Taking photographs of children engaging in school trips and educational visits. These photographs will be used for school purposes only and will be deleted from the mobile device once uploaded to the school server

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to allow for special arrangements. If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number as a point of emergency contact.

## **Parents, Visitors and Volunteers**

Parent Volunteers either in school or accompanying children on school trips should not use their cameras or mobile phone cameras to take pictures of pupils unless it is at a public event such as Sports Day of their own children for personal use and not shared on social media.

They should only use their mobile phone or smart technologies within the confines of the school office or staff room. If parents who accompany children on a school trip are asked by the teacher to take photos as a record of the educational visit, they will be issued with a school camera.

## **Related Policies**

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Health & Safety
- Behaviour
- E-Safety
- Anti-Bullying

Policies and related guidance can be found on our school website.