

Pupil Mobile Phone & Smart Devices Policy

Reviewed September 2026

School Vision

We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible.



Pupil Mobile Phone & Smart Devices Policy

Our Principle

Aspull Church Primary School believes that every pupil deserves to learn in a calm, safe and purposeful environment, free from unnecessary digital distractions.

Our school operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day so that pupils can fully engage in learning, develop positive relationships and support their own wellbeing. Where mobile phones are brought to school, they are for travel to and from school only and must be managed in accordance with this policy.

1. Policy Statement

Aspull Church Primary School is committed to providing a safe, calm and purposeful environment in which every pupil and student can learn successfully and achieve their potential.

We recognise that mobile phones and other internet-enabled personal devices can distract from learning, negatively affect behaviour and wellbeing, and present safeguarding risks through unauthorised communication, photography, filming, recording and access to social media during the school day.

In accordance with Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and the Department for Education's statutory guidance Mobile Phones in Schools, the school operates a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.

Pupils in year five/six may bring a mobile phone or device to school where necessary for travelling safely to and from school. However, once on the school site, the device must be switched off, placed in the phone box in the classroom at the start of the day, which is then moved to the school office for safe keeping.

Mobile phones/devices must not be used during the school day unless an authorised exception applies.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- create a calm, focused and purposeful learning environment
- maximise engagement with teaching and learning
- reduce opportunities for bullying, online harm and misuse of social media
- support positive behaviour and healthy face-to-face interaction
- protect the privacy and dignity of pupils and staff
- promote pupil wellbeing
- support safeguarding arrangements across the school
- provide a clear and consistent framework for staff, pupils, and parents
- meet statutory requirements relating to mobile phone use in schools

3. Legislative Framework

This policy has been developed with reference to:

- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 (Section 36)
- Department for Education: Mobile Phones in Schools (Statutory Guidance)
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Department for Education: Behaviour in Schools
- Department for Education: Searching, Screening and Confiscation
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

4. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils attending Aspull Church Primary School.

It also sets out the expectations for staff, parents, carers, volunteers, visitors and contractors whilst on school premises or engaged in school activities where mobile phone use may have an impact on safeguarding, behaviour or the effective operation of the school.

For the purposes of this policy, "mobile phone" and “devices” includes (but are not limited to):

- smartphones
- mobile phones
- smart watches capable of communication
- meta/smart glasses
- tablets with mobile connectivity
- wireless earbuds with communication capability
- any internet-enabled personal communication device capable of making or receiving calls, messages or online content.

5. Expectations

Aspull Church Primary School operates as mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.

Pupils are expected to:

- switch off their mobile phone before entering the school building
- ensure the device remains switched off and is not used during the school day
- for safe keeping, place the device in the designated storage box at the start of the school day
- not use, display or charge a mobile phone whilst on the school site
- not use a mobile phone to photograph, film or record pupils or staff
- comply immediately with any reasonable instruction from a member of staff regarding mobile phone use

Our School

Where pupils bring a mobile phone to school, they must:

- switch the phone off before entering the school building
- place the phone in the secure storage container provided within their classroom at the start of the school day
- leave the phone securely stored throughout the school day
- collect the phone at the end of the school day before leaving the school premises

We accept no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to mobile phones/devices brought onto the premises.

6. Principles

The purpose of this policy is educational rather than punitive.

We believe that pupils learn best in an environment free from unnecessary distractions and where face-to-face communication is encouraged.

Where pupils do not meet expectations, staff will seek to educate, remind and support them before applying increasingly serious consequences where necessary.

Consequences will normally be applied using a graduated approach. However, the Headteacher reserves the right to depart from this sequence where the seriousness of an incident justifies a different response.

7. Graduated Consequences

Aspull Church Primary School will apply consequences consistently through its Behaviour Policy whilst maintaining the expectation of a mobile phone-free school day.

Stage 1 – First Breach

The pupil will receive:

- a reminder of the school's expectations
- an instruction to put the phone away immediately
- the incident will be recorded
- Parents/carers will be informed

Stage 2 – Second Breach

- The phone will be confiscated by a member of staff
- Parents/carers will be informed
- The device will be securely stored in the school office and a parent/carer will be asked to collect the phone from school.

Stage 3 – Third Breach

- The phone will be confiscated.
- The device will only be returned to a parent or carer.
- The incident will result in additional pastoral intervention or behaviour support.
- Parents/carers will be informed by letter.
- Student will receive a warning letter.

Stage 4 – Repeated or Persistent Breaches

Where a student continues to breach the policy, the Headteacher may determine that the student is no longer permitted to bring a mobile phone onto the school site.

8. Searches and Confiscation

School staff have statutory powers to confiscate mobile phones and, where appropriate, search for prohibited items in accordance with the Education and

Inspections Act 2006**,** Education Act 2011 and the Department for Education's guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation**.**

Where a student has been prohibited from bringing a phone onto the school site, staff may ask the student to demonstrate compliance before entering school.

Any searches will be:

- lawful
- proportionate
- respectful
- carried out by appropriately trained staff
- recorded where appropriate

Any confiscated device will be stored securely and returned in accordance with stage 3 and stage 4 graduated consequences as outlined above.

We will always consider:

- age
- SEND
- medical needs
- religion
- cultural considerations
- reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010

Refusal to comply with reasonable instructions relating to this policy**,** including surrendering a mobile phone where required, may be treated as a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy.

9. Safeguarding

This policy supports safeguarding by reducing the risks associated with:

- online bullying and cyberbullying
- inappropriate contact between pupils
- sharing of indecent or inappropriate images or videos
- unauthorised photography, filming or audio recording
- access to harmful online or inappropriate content during the school day.
- disruption to learning caused by social media or online communication.

Where a mobile phone is believed to contain evidence relating to a safeguarding concern, criminal offence or serious breach of school rules, staff will respond in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation and our Safeguarding Policy.

Any safeguarding concerns involving mobile phones will be managed in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

10. Exceptions

Exceptions may be authorised where a pupil:

- has a medical condition requiring access to a device
- requires a reasonable adjustment under the Equality Act 2010
- has an Education, Health and Care Plan identifying such a need
- requires a device for an authorised educational activity
- has another exceptional circumstance approved by the Headteacher

All exceptions will be agreed in advance and recorded. The Headteacher may determine reasonable conditions relating to the possession, storage and permitted use of the device during the school day.

Approved exceptions will be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain appropriate and necessary.

11. Educational Visits and Residential Visits

The use of mobile phones during educational visits, residential visits and activities taking place outside the normal school day will be determined by the Visit Leader and approved by the Headteacher following an assessment of the educational purpose, safeguarding considerations, age of pupils and the nature of the visit.

12. Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- apply this policy consistently and fairly
- model appropriate professional use of mobile devices
- challenge breaches of this policy promptly and consistently
- record breaches accurately
- securely manage confiscated devices
- communicate concerns to SLT/pastoral leader where appropriate
- support pupils and parents/carers to understand the purpose of this policy

Personal mobile phones must not be used by staff for personal reasons in front of pupils during the school day unless authorised in exceptional circumstances by the Headteacher.

Staff must not:

- use personal mobile phones to photograph, film or record pupils
- use personal devices to process, store or share confidential school information or personal data
- share personal contact details with pupils or parents/carers unless authorised as part of their role

Further expectations relating to professional conduct, acceptable use of technology, data protection and the use of mobile devices are contained within the Staff Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, Staff Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy and Data Protection Policy.

13. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- support the school's mobile phone policy
- reinforce expectations at home
- avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day except in emergencies
- contact the school office where urgent communication is required
- support any individual sanctions or behaviour plans

Parents and carers should not expect pupils to access or respond to messages during the school day. Any urgent communication should be made through the school office.

14. Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this policy will be monitored through:

- behaviour records
- safeguarding records
- student and staff feedback
- analysis of trends relating to mobile phone incidents
- monitoring by Headteacher
- governor oversight

The policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner where legislation or statutory guidance or operational practice changes.

15. Linked Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Relationship and Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Data Protection Policy