

Barton St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Mobile Devices Policy

October 2026



Let Your Light Shine

Matthew 5:16

We help children to achieve success. Our children are shining lights and we give them the confidence to shine in whatever direction and however they choose.

As Peter was Jesus' rock, we are the rock upon which our children build a firm foundation.

To be reviewed annually or as needed in line with guidance

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1. Rationale

Barton St Peter's recognises that mobile phones (including smart phones) and other electronic devices such as tablet computers and smart watches are an important part of everyday life in modern Britain. However, such devices can disrupt learning and create other issues such as cyber bullying.

This policy aims to:

- Make clear the school's position on mobile phones and other electronic devices
- Acknowledge the guidance issued by the DfE
- Provide guidance to staff to be positive role models for our children with regards to the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices
- Support the Child Protection policy

2. Roles and Responsibilities

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy. Volunteers, or anyone else engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they have a concern that this policy is not being enforced or complied with.

3. The Use of Mobile Phones and devices by Staff

Barton St Peter's acknowledges that staff and other adults that come into contact with our pupils are role models for expected behaviour. Therefore, it is important to outline the main conduct expectations of staff with regards to mobile phones and digital devices :

3.1 Personal Mobile Phones and devices

Staff may need to use their personal mobile phone for work activity, such as accessing emails or using authentication applications.

Staff may wear a watch that has smart features but these features should be deactivated during the working day

Staff are encouraged to act responsibly when using their personal devices by:

- Ensuring their phone is locked away throughout the day. In the event of a family issue or emergency, staff must seek permission from the head teacher to have their mobile phone accessible for an agreed period of time
- Not making or receiving personal phone calls/messages in areas where pupils are or could be present from phones or other devices. Calls / messages must be made in one of the offices or the staff room.

- Not taking photographs of children on personal mobile phones or other devices
- Advising the senior leadership team if there are circumstances during the school day where they may need to make or accept calls (e.g. their child or another dependent is unwell).

Staff who use their personal mobile phone, or other electronic device such as a tablet computer, for work email must have adequate protection in place to protect the sensitive data that email can contain, including a passcode of at least 6 digits long to unlock the device.

Should the device be lost or stolen, they must inform the head teacher at the earliest opportunity so that steps can be taken to ensure sensitive data from emails remains secure.

3.2 Safeguarding

Staff must not use their mobile phones or other devices to take photographs or recordings of pupils or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it is necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done on a school ipad

3.3 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones or other devices to process pupil data, or any other school information, including entering such data in to generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

3.4 Using personal mobile phones for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential trips

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner at all times
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, or anything which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents/carers. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or a designated 'school phone'

3.5 School Mobile phone

The school does have a "school mobile" the number of which is shared for 2 hour safeguarding purposes. This device is mostly held by the head teacher, deputy head teacher or pastoral lead.

Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails

or other communication using the internet

- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times

4. Use of Mobile Phones and other devices by Pupils

Barton St Peter's is 'Phone Free'. This means that pupils' phones should not be seen, heard or used during the school day. Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices with them to school.

However, we recognise that Y6 pupils and their families may rely on mobile phones as a safety measure where children travel to and from school independently. Where this is the case, Year 6 pupils may bring a mobile phone with them providing the following conditions are met:

- It is a day where the child is travelling independently.
- The mobile phone is switched off and handed over to the office on arrival to school
- The mobile phone is stored in the office
- The mobile phone is only returned to the child at the end of the school day

MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON TRIPS, INCLUDING RESIDENTIALS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

4.1 Smart watches

Barton St Peter's recognises that many watches have smart features. If a pupil is wearing a smart watch, all smart devices must be disabled throughout the school day. If this rule is not followed, it will be considered a breach and will be acted on using the procedure below.

4.2 Pupils in Breach of this Policy

Pupil mobile phones and other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) are prohibited items in school other than under the circumstances described in 4.0 4.1 . Where pupils are in breach of the policy the following process should be followed:

- (If appropriate) a reminder of the conduct expectations and an opportunity to comply with the policy.
- Confiscation of the device and parents/carers advised. The device is then stored in a secure location away from the classroom
- The device is only returned to the parent of carer of the child.
- Sanctions, where necessary, may be issued in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. This conduct is taken extremely seriously and other agencies such as the police will be involved where necessary. This conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images or videos)

- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or text directed at someone on the basis of their ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

4.3 Communicating with parents/carers

It is expected that head teacher will communicate this policy to parents/carers

Where a pupil joins mid-year, parents should be advised of this policy

Where there has been a breach of this policy by a pupil, the school must advise parents/carers at the earliest opportunity before the end of the school day.

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, volunteers and visitors (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it applies to staff if they are in the school during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils (or anything that could identify a pupil), unless it is their own child
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents/carers **must** use the school office as the point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones or other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) that are lost, damaged or stolen whilst on the school premises or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

7. Adjustments to this policy

The head teacher and governing board may adjust this policy on a case by case basis where they deem this to be appropriate. Circumstances could include, but are not limited to, where a mobile phone is used for medical purposes (e.g. the tracking of blood sugar levels for a diabetic child). This adjustment must be recorded on CPOMS.

