

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrews 10:24-25



# Frenchay

## C of E Primary School

Believe • Belong • Become

"At Frenchay, we *believe* in every child's potential, foster a sense of *belonging*, and empower them to *become* successful learners"

Mobile Phone Policy

Date issued: September 2025

Signed: N.Dawson July 2025

Chair of Governors : David Williams July 2025

## Frenchay Primary School: Mobile Phone and Device Policy

It is the right and responsibility of parents and carers to make decisions that keep their child safe outside of school. This policy has been developed in line with current research, and a parent working group. Frenchay families made it very clear through the parent pact (smartphone free childhood) that they want to delay our children having smartphone access for as long as possible. Therefore, to reflect this, as a school, our stance is that children **do not need** to bring phones to school. They are **not permitted to use them** at all during the school day.

### 1. Rationale and Overview

At Frenchay Primary School, the welfare and well-being of our pupils is our paramount concern. This policy aims to:

- Enable the responsible use of modern communication technologies.
- Promote safe and appropriate practices through clear guidelines.
- Balance the benefits of mobile devices with the need to protect against misuse.

We acknowledge the potential risks associated with mobile devices, including:

- Distraction and disruption to learning.
- The taking and distribution of indecent images.
- Exploitation, bullying, and online abuse.
- Access to harmful online content.

This policy applies to all individuals on the school site, including:

- Staff (including agency staff).
- Volunteers.
- Governors.
- Pupils.
- Parents/carers.
- Visitors and contractors.

"Mobile devices" encompasses mobile phones, tablets, smartwatches, and any other wearable technology with communication or recording capabilities.

### 2. Camera Mobile Phones and Wearable Technology

- The use of camera-enabled devices presents potential safeguarding risks.
- Misuse can lead to bullying, harassment, and the distribution of inappropriate images.
- Any watch that is worn must not connect to the internet on mobile device. Our recommendation is that smart watches ideally are not worn to school

### 3. Pupil Use of Mobile Devices

- Frenchay Primary School does not encourage pupils to bring mobile devices to school.
- In exceptional circumstances (e.g., Year 6 pupils walking home independently), parents/carers must complete a permission form (Appendix 1).
- Devices must be handed in to the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end.
- Devices must be clearly labelled and switched off before handing in.
- Frenchay Primary School accepts no liability for lost or damaged devices.
- The school reserves the right to confiscate and search devices in line with government guidance.
- Pupils must agree to unlock devices if requested by a member of staff.
- If a pupil is found using a device, it will be confiscated and stored in the office. Parents/carers will be informed.
- Taking photographs or videos of other pupils or staff is a serious offence.
- Images will be deleted in the presence of a senior teacher.
- Inappropriate use may result in the withdrawal of permission to bring devices to school.
- Parents/carers have a duty of care to discuss the appropriate use of text messages and images with their children.
- Communication between parents/carers and pupils during the school day must be through the school office.
- If a pupil is suspected of using a device to bully, harass, or share indecent images, the device will be confiscated and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed.

### 4. Parents, Visitors, and Volunteers

- Signage and the electronic signing-in system remind adults not to use mobile devices on site.
- Adults must not use mobile devices to photograph pupils, except at public events (e.g., sports day, performances) and then only of their own children.
- Adults should only use mobile phones in staff rooms and the office where children are not present.
- If parents are asked to take photos on school trips, a school camera will be provided.

### 5. Staff Use of Mobile Devices

- Staff may bring personal mobile devices to school but must use them responsibly.
- Personal use is permitted only in designated staff areas where pupils are not present.
- During teaching hours, devices must be switched off and stored securely. Frenchay Primary School accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items.
- Staff must never contact pupils or parents/carers using personal devices. All communication should be through the school office/member of staff.
- Staff must not send or receive inappropriate texts or images.
- Staff must never photograph pupils or allow themselves to be photographed by pupils without explicit permission from the Headteacher for an educational purpose.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, including referral to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and, if necessary, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Smartwatches may only be worn if they are not connected to mobile phones and the camera function is disabled.

- Staff should never use personal social media to communicate with pupils or parents.

## 6. Mobile Devices for Work-Related Purposes

- Mobile devices may be used for communication during off-site activities.
- Use must be appropriate and professional.
- Photographs of pupils are prohibited unless authorised by the Headteacher.
- Contact with parents during school trips must be through the school office, or the school mobile phone if on a residential trip and away from children.
- Parents accompanying trips must be informed not to contact other parents or take photographs of children.

## 7. Safeguarding Considerations

- This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Online Safety Policy, and Acceptable Use Policy.
- Any concerns about the misuse of mobile devices should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Any concerns of child sexual exploitation or abuse will be reported to the LADO.
- Staff are aware of their responsibilities to report any concerns regarding child on child abuse.

## 8. Appendix 1: Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer,

In accordance with our Mobile Phone and Device Policy, if your child is bringing a mobile phone to school on a regular basis, please could you sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to bring their device to the school office first thing in the morning before they go to their classroom.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile device.
- Your child's device should be appropriately marked so that they can recognise it.
- Should your child be found using their device inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring them into school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards,

Mrs Dawson

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Parent/Carer Consent:

I, (Parent/Carer Name) \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for my child, (Child's Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_, in class \_\_\_\_\_, to bring a mobile phone/smart watch to school.

I understand and agree to the conditions outlined above.

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **9. Pupil Contract**

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that

- I am not able to use my phone in school.
- It is my responsibility to take it straight to the office upon my arrival in school.
- It is my responsibility to collect my phone at the end of the day – no one will return it to me. If I forget, I understand that it will stay locked away in the school office until it is collected at the end of the following day.
- If I do not follow the rules it means an instant ban on the phone being brought into the school.
- I take responsibility for using it wisely and safely.
- I will ask for help if something is worrying me about my or other persons phone use.

**Signed** .....

**Signed.....Mrs Dawson – Headteacher**

## **Parental advice**

We had an overwhelming amount of support in order to ban smartphones use in our school. We do not and will not ever allow a child to use a phone in school, smartphone or brick. We will always recommend that children do not need a smartphone. However, if you choose to give your child a smart phone, our guidance is to delay for as long as possible. There are other options available, such as the brick mobile phone (see website links below)

we recommend that you monitor your child's use of their phone by:

- Regularly checking their messages and internet use
- We recommend that you set screen time limits and support real life connections/experiences
- Not allowing them to take the phone to their bedroom.
- In addition, we recommend having a time where you conduct random spot checks.
- A time when the phone is not in use on an evening, for example from 7pm until 8am.
- We also recommend that children do not use their phone for an alarm clock.

If you are worried about your child, please seek some help, the links below are a good starting point or come and talk to us in school.

We recommend you have security measures on your home internet system so that you can monitor internet access and browsing history.

You need to be aware of age limits for apps and social media.

In line with current research and guidance here are some hints and tips for families. Follow the links to see how you can support your child at home and other alternatives to a smartphone.

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

[Papaya Parents](#)

[Why do some apps ask for my age? - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Age Restrictions on Social Media Services | Childnet](#)

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

[Keeping children safe online | Barnardo's](#)

[Promoting online safety for children | The Children's Society](#)

[Online safety for children and young people - Family Action](#)

NB **please see our Parental advice web page for further info and updates**

We also have some parent champions who are help to talk to you if you have worries or concerns