NORTH HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

School: North Heath CP School

Approved by:

Date Approved: October 2026

Review Date: October 2028

Purpose

At North Heath Community Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, calm, and focused learning environment for all pupils. The use of smartphones and internet-enabled devices by children of primary school age presents significant safeguarding, wellbeing, and behavioural concerns, including:

- distraction from learning
- exposure to inappropriate online content
- cyberbullying and peer conflict
- misuse of cameras and social media
- risks associated with unsupervised internet access
- reduced social interaction and wellbeing

This policy sets out the school's expectations regarding mobile phones and smart devices on school premises and during school activities.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all pupils
- all visitors where relevant

The policy applies:

- on school premises
- during educational visits
- during wraparound provision where applicable
- when travelling to and from school

Policy Statement

Pupils are **not permitted to have smartphones or internet-enabled devices** in school.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- smartphones
- smartwatches
- devices capable of taking photographs, recording audio/video, accessing apps, or connecting to social media or the internet

Children who travel independently to and from school may bring a basic mobile phone ("brick phone") for essential communication with parents/carers, provided it:

- is limited to calls and text messaging only
- has no internet connectivity (or this is turned off)
- has no social media access
- is not used on school premises

Permitted Devices

A permitted phone must:

- only allow calls and SMS text messages
- not have internet browsing capability
- not have social media apps downloaded
- remain switched off and stored out of sight, by the class teacher, for the school day

The Headteacher reserves the right to determine whether a device is acceptable under this policy.

Medical Exceptions

The school recognises that some pupils may require access to a connected device for medical purposes.
Permission may be granted by the headteacher:

- following a written request from parents/carers or a conversation with the headteacher
- where supporting medical evidence can be provided if requested

The school may place conditions on the use and storage of approved devices.

Storage and Use

Any permitted phone brought into school must:

- be switched off before entering the school site
- be handed to the class teacher
- not be used during the school day unless authorised by a member of staff

Pupils must not:

- use phones during the school day or on-site
- photograph or record pupils, staff, or visitors
- access online content on school premises
- use smartwatches or connected wearable devices

Searches, Confiscation, and Sanctions

Under the school's behaviour and safeguarding responsibilities, authorised staff may search pupils' possessions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of this policy or where safeguarding concerns arise.

Any prohibited device may be confiscated.

This includes:

- smartphones
- smartwatches
- internet-enabled devices
- devices used in breach of this policy

Confiscated items will:

- be securely stored by the school
- be returned to the pupil (first offence) or parent/carer (further offences) at the end of the day

The school reserves the right to examine any device where there is a safeguarding concern, suspicion of bullying, inappropriate images, or other serious breach of school rules, in line with statutory guidance and safeguarding procedures.

Repeated breaches of this policy may result in further sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Safeguarding

The school takes all safeguarding matters seriously. Any content on a device that raises concerns relating to:

- bullying
- child protection
- sexual imagery
- harassment
- extremist material
- criminal behaviour

may be referred to:

- the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- external agencies including the police where appropriate

Staff will follow current safeguarding guidance, including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance
- the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Educational Visits

Mobile phones and smart devices are generally not permitted on educational visits unless explicitly authorised by the headteacher.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff are responsible for:

- enforcing this policy consistently
- reporting concerns to senior leaders or the DSL
- confiscating prohibited devices where necessary
- recording serious breaches appropriately

Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- support the school in implementing this policy
- avoid sending children to school with prohibited devices
- discuss safe and responsible technology use at home

The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to unauthorised devices brought onto school premises.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Governing Body and senior leadership team to ensure it remains effective and compliant with current guidance and legislation.

Related Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy