

SAFEGUARDING AND CONDUCT

Mobile Phone Policy

Safe, respectful and proportionate use of mobile technology



Approved by: Full Governing Board
Approval Date: September 2026
Review Date: September 2027

Our Vision

Grow • Learn • Persevere • Succeed

At Great Leighs Primary School, we want pupils to learn, play and develop positive relationships without unnecessary distraction.

This policy supports our vision of Grow • Learn • Persevere • Succeed by promoting wellbeing, learning and safeguarding.

1. Rationale

Department for Education statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools, which became statutory on 29 June 2026 and should be followed from 1 September 2026

As a primary school, we recognise that mobile phones are not required for learning during the school day and can present risks related to distraction, safeguarding, bullying and wellbeing if not managed carefully.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils on roll at the school
- All staff, volunteers and visitors (separate staff guidance applies)
- School time, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, educational visits and extracurricular activities

3. General Principles

- The school is a **mobile phone-free environment for pupils during the school day**.
- Pupils must not access or use mobile phones at any point during the school day.
- Any permitted possession of a mobile phone is tightly controlled, proportionate and based on clear safeguarding and practical reasons.
- Expectations are communicated clearly to pupils, parents and staff and are applied consistently.

4. Pupils' Mobile Phones

4.1 Who May Bring a Mobile Phone

- Only pupils in **Year 5 and Year 6** are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school.
- This permission is granted solely to support travel to and from school where necessary.
- Pupils in all other year groups must not bring mobile phones onto the school site.

- On arrival at school, Year 5 and 6 pupils who have brought a mobile phone must **hand it immediately to their class teacher or designated member of staff.**
- Phones are switched off and stored securely in a locked cupboard or secure storage area.

4.3 During the School Day

- Pupils **do not have access to their mobile phones at any time** during the school day.
- Mobile phones are not used in lessons, at breaktime, lunchtime, or during any school activity.

4.4 End of the School Day

- Mobile phones are returned to pupils at the end of the school day.
- Once pupils have left the school site, responsibility for the phone transfers to the parent/carer.

5. Smart Devices and Other Technology

- Smartwatches and other internet-enabled devices are not permitted unless agreed in advance for medical or safeguarding reasons.
- Devices used for medical purposes must have all non-essential functions disabled.

6. Safeguarding and Wellbeing

This policy supports the school's safeguarding responsibilities and wider commitment to promoting children's wellbeing. Mobile phone restrictions help reduce risks associated with:

- Online bullying and harassment.
- Access to inappropriate content.
- Filming or photographing others without consent.
- Sharing images inappropriately.
- Disruption to learning and social interaction.
- Exposure to harmful online material.

The school recognises emerging safeguarding risks associated with:

- Artificial intelligence (AI).
- Deepfake technology.
- AI-generated images.
- Manipulated digital content.
- AI-generated nude or semi-nude imagery.

Concerns involving such material will be managed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

7. Educational Visits

The principles within this policy apply during educational visits and off-site activities. Where an educational visit requires different arrangements for communication, safeguarding or emergency purposes, these will be communicated to parents/carers in advance by the visit leader.

8. Behaviour and Sanctions

- Failure to follow this policy will be treated as a behaviour matter.
- If a pupil is found with a mobile phone that has not been handed in:
 - The phone will be confiscated and stored securely

- Parents/carers will be informed
 - Repeated breaches may result in the withdrawal of permission to bring a phone to school
- Any misuse of a mobile phone, including accessing content or taking images, will be dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Loss, Theft and Damage

Mobile phones are brought to school at the owner's risk.

Whilst the school will take reasonable steps to ensure secure storage, Great Leighs Primary School cannot accept responsibility for:

Loss.

Theft.

Damage.

to personal devices brought onto the school site.

10. Staff Responsibilities

- Staff are responsible for the consistent implementation of this policy.
- Class teachers are responsible for the secure storage and return of pupils' phones.
- Senior leaders monitor the effectiveness and consistency of the policy.

11. Parents and Carers

- Parents/carers are asked to support the school by:
 - Ensuring only Year 5 and 6 pupils bring phones where necessary
 - Reinforcing expectations about phone use
 - Contacting the school office if they need to pass a message to their child during the school day
 - Avoiding direct contact with pupils via mobile phones during school hours.

11A. Statutory implementation safeguards

The school-day prohibition applies from arrival on site until the pupil leaves at the end of the day, including lessons, transitions, break and lunch. Any exception must be individual, necessary and agreed in advance for medical need, disability, safeguarding, risk assessment or another compelling reason. Reasonable adjustments will be recorded and will not permit wider use than necessary.

Parents must contact pupils during the school day through the school office. Confiscation will be proportionate, carried out under the school's lawful disciplinary powers and recorded. Staff will not search a device or view content except where lawful, authorised and necessary under safeguarding procedures. Suspected criminal or safeguarding material will be preserved without copying or forwarding and referred to the DSL.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Governing Board will review this policy annually.

The policy may be reviewed earlier if:

- National guidance changes.
- Safeguarding requirements change.
- The school identifies a need to amend procedures.

Great Leighs Primary School

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