



MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we believe that God is at the heart of everything we do. Our vision is for every member of our school community to grow in faith, love, and wisdom, supported by the teachings of Jesus. We are committed to nurturing a compassionate and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and welcomed. As a village school at the core of our local community, we extend our faith and friendship to all, inspired by our belief that: **"With God at the centre, we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community."** God's love guides us in all that we do, providing us with the light to navigate challenges, the courage to persevere, and the love to unite us as one. **"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19.**

SCHOOL AIMS

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding and educating our children in the responsible use of technology, as well as protecting the learning environment. To uphold these values and ensure the safety of all our pupils, we aim to maintain a mobile phone-free zone throughout the school grounds, in line with DFE statutory guidance introduced for September 2026.

GUIDELINES

1. Mobile Phones at School

Pupils are **not permitted** to bring mobile phones or personal devices (such as tablets and smart watches) into school. We request that parents actively support and reinforce this policy by ensuring that children leave their mobile phones at home. Pupils are also not permitted to take mobile phones on residential trips, or any out-of-school enrichment activities.

2. Exceptional Circumstances

In exceptional cases where a child may need to bring a mobile phone to school (e.g. due to after-school arrangements), **permission must be sought** from the child's Class Teacher. Parents are required to contact the child's Class Teacher, outlining the reasons and specific dates the mobile phone will be brought into school. Once permission is granted, the phone must be switched off and handed into the Class Teacher at the beginning of the school day. It will be stored in the

Class Teacher's desk or cupboard and returned to the pupil at the end of the day. The final decision regarding granting or refusing permission is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

3. Use of Mobile Phones on School Grounds

Under no circumstances should mobile phones be used during school hours, including on the playground or while walking in or out of the school gates. The phone must remain switched off during this time. Any child found using a phone on the school premises will have the device confiscated immediately.

4. Confiscation and Collection

In the event of a confiscation, the phone will be kept in the School Office and parents will be informed. It is the responsibility of the parent to collect the device from the School Office at the end of the school day.

5. Safeguarding and Education

Our policy, which aligns with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, reflects and reinforces our commitment to safeguarding. We will work with pupils and parents to educate children about the responsible use of technology, digital safety, and the importance of boundaries regarding mobile phone use. This policy should be read alongside the Behaviour policy and the Online safety policy.

6. Staff use of mobile phone

As per our online safety policy, staff are only allowed to use mobile phones in the staffroom, or in classrooms when there are no children in there. Mobile phones must be turned to silent and not be used when children are present. In exceptional circumstances, prior arrangement can be made with the Headteacher.

Mobile phones are NEVER to be used for taking photographs of children.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually in accordance with school safeguarding measures and in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

Date reviewed by Governing Board: July 2026

Date due for review: July 2028