

Hartford Manor Primary School & Nursery



Mobile Phones Policy

Date of policy: Autumn 2026
Review Cycle: Annual
Reviewed By: Simon Kidwell
Approved By: Governing Body
Next review date: Autumn 2027

1. Introduction and aims

At Hartford Manor our policy aims to:

- Ensure our environment is mobile phone-free for pupils
- Provide clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection, behaviour and acceptable use

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology for learning purposes

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar devices including smart watches.

2. Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, and the Department for Education (DfE)'s mobile phone guidance and behaviour guidance. Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is Keeping Children Safe in Education.

3. Use of mobile phones by pupils

The DfE's mobile phone guidance says that the use of mobile phones is prohibited throughout the school day.

If parents/carers allow their child to walk to school alone, they may choose to give their child a mobile phone for safety reasons.

All mobile phones must be handed into the class teachers each morning and stored safely until the end of the school day.

Pupils must not use their mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, in the time between lessons, at breaktimes and at lunchtimes, unless explicitly authorised by a member of staff (for example, for a specific medical reason).

Pupils may only turn the phone back on once they are at the school gate.

Pupils will be taught the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly, to ensure they understand the decision to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.

Pupils will be encouraged to see a mobile-phone free environment as desirable and valuable.

4. Use of smartwatches by pupils

The DfE's statutory [mobile phones guidance](#) includes in the term 'mobile phones' all devices with communications and smart technology.

Smart watches or other wearable devices that are capable of making or receiving calls, sending or receiving messages, accessing the internet, taking photographs, recording audio, or receiving notifications **must not** be used during the school day.

Pupils may wear watches if they are used to tell the time or have basic fitness tracking.

Staff may require a pupil to remove or hand in a smart watch where there are concerns regarding safeguarding, privacy, behaviour or disruption to learning.

Watches, fitness trackers and smart watches may also need to be removed during PE lessons or other activities where they present a health and safety risk.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where a device is required to support a pupil's medical needs or forms part of an agreed individual support plan.

4. Phone conduct

- Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under [sections 91 and 94](#) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Headteachers can confiscate mobile phone and similar devices for the length of time they deem proportionate, according to the [DfE's guidance on mobile phones in schools](#)
- Staff have the power to search pupils' phones in specific circumstances, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil's phone if there is a good reason to do so (such as having reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause harm to another person).

If it is deemed that a child has used a mobile phone inappropriately or unsafely. The school will also consider whether:

- There are any relevant special circumstances (for example, age, religious requirements, special educational needs (SEN), disability)
- The pupil's behaviour may indicate they may be suffering, or at risk of, harm. If this is suspected, staff will follow the appropriate procedure set out in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#). This will include speaking with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy, who will consider if pastoral support, an early intervention, or a referral to children's social care, is appropriate.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

7. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing mobile phones to school must ensure that their phones are appropriately labelled, ready to be stored away securely by the class teacher during the school day.

Pupils must secure their mobile phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Lost phones should be returned to the main office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.