

Mobile Phone (Pupils) Policy

Introduction

At Park Community Primary School, Llay, we recognise that a small number of children—particularly those in the upper junior classes—may choose to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons when travelling independently to and from school.

However, mobile phones are not required for learning in school, and their presence can create safeguarding, privacy and wellbeing risks if not carefully managed. This policy sets out clear expectations for the safe and appropriate handling of pupil mobile phones whilst on school premises or during school activities.

This policy is designed in line with safeguarding responsibilities and reflects guidance including:

- Welsh Government – Keeping Learners Safe (Statutory Safeguarding Guidance)
- Education Act 2002 (Safeguarding Duties)
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
- Online Safety guidance for schools
- Welsh Government and public health advice regarding screen use and mobile phone access for children under 11

The governing body and leadership team recognise increasing evidence that mobile phone use for primary-aged children can impact wellbeing, concentration and online safety, and therefore mobile phone use is strictly forbidden during the school day.

General Principles

- Pupils are not encouraged to bring mobile phones to school.
- If a phone is brought to school, it is entirely at the owner's risk.
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to devices brought onto the premises.
- Phones must not be used anywhere on school premises, including playgrounds, classrooms or corridors.

Procedure for Bringing a Mobile Phone to School

If a pupil needs to bring a mobile phone to school:

- The phone must be switched off before entering the school building
- Upon arrival in class, the phone must be placed immediately into the designated class mobile phone box.
- The class teacher will then ensure the box is stored securely in a cupboard with no pupil access.
- Phones will remain stored securely for the duration of the school day.
- Phones will be returned to pupils at the end of the school day.
- At no point during the school day should children access or use their mobile phones.

Medical Devices and Health Needs

The school recognises that some children may require access to **mobile phone technology or connected devices for medical purposes**, for example to support the monitoring and management of conditions such as **Type 1 Diabetes** using continuous glucose monitoring systems or insulin pump applications.

In these circumstances:

- The use of a mobile phone or connected device **may be permitted with prior agreement from the Headteacher**.
- Permission will normally be granted where the device forms part of a **medical care plan** or is recommended by a healthcare professional.
- The device must only be used **for the agreed medical purpose**.
- The pupil's use of the device will be **carefully monitored by staff** in line with the pupil's **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)** and the school's **Medical Needs Policy**.

Where a mobile phone is approved for medical use, reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure the pupil can **monitor their health safely while still maintaining the safeguarding expectations of the school environment**.

Any misuse of the device **outside its agreed medical purpose** will be addressed in line with this Mobile Phone Policy.

Prohibited Use

The following behaviours are strictly forbidden:

- Using a mobile phone during the school day.
- Accessing a phone without staff permission.
- Using a mobile phone to take photographs, video or audio recordings anywhere on school premises.
- Uploading or sharing photographs, videos or recordings taken whilst in school on social media or messaging platforms.

These behaviours raise significant safeguarding and data protection concerns and will be treated seriously.

Smartwatches and Wearable Devices

The school recognises that some pupils may wear **smartwatches or other wearable technology** that have similar functions to mobile phones.

Where a smartwatch has the ability to:

- take photographs
- record video or audio
- access the internet
- send messages or make calls

it will be treated in the same way as a **mobile phone under this policy**.

Pupils **must not use smartwatches or wearable devices to record photographs, videos or audio** anywhere on school premises. The use of such devices to record others without permission raises **significant safeguarding and privacy concerns**.

If a pupil is found to have **used a smartwatch or wearable device to take recordings in school**, this will be treated as a breach of the Mobile Phone Policy and the following may apply:

- confiscation of the device
- parents/carers being informed
- a **ban on bringing smartwatches or similar devices to school**
- further sanctions in line with the school's behaviour policy

Where recordings or photographs taken in school are uploaded, shared or distributed online, this may be treated as a serious safeguarding matter and could result in further sanctions, including a period of exclusion, in line with school policy and safeguarding guidance.

Meta Smart Glasses

Meta smart glasses (including Ray-Ban Meta glasses) are strictly prohibited in school at all times. Children must not bring, wear or use these devices anywhere on school premises, including before or after the school day, at Breakfast Club or during school activities and visits. This prohibition applies whether or not the recording function is being used. The restriction is necessary to protect the safeguarding, privacy and wellbeing of children and staff. Any breach will be addressed in accordance with the sanctions and safeguarding provisions of this policy, and parents/carers will be informed.

Breakfast Club

This policy also applies to children attending Breakfast Club, where the use of mobile phones by pupils is not permitted. Mobile phones must be switched off before entering the building and placed in the Breakfast Club box. Children can then collect these and transfer them to class boxes.

Before School Use

Some children (in Years 5 & 6) arrive early at school and choose to sit on the side yard whilst waiting for the start of the day. Children are allowed to use their mobile phone devices at this time as it is before school hours. Asking children to not use their mobile devices during this time would be difficult to monitor and some may then choose to wait elsewhere, in more public places, which could pose a safeguarding risk.

Sanctions

Failure to follow this policy will result in sanctions.

Possible consequences include:

Failure to hand in a phone

- Immediate confiscation.

- Parents/carers informed.
- Temporary or permanent ban on bringing a mobile phone to school.

Using a mobile phone during the school day

- Confiscation of the phone.
- Parents/carers contacted.
- Possible ban from bringing a phone to school.

Recording or photographing in school

- Immediate confiscation of the device (mobile phone or smartwatch).
- Parents/carers informed.
- Immediate ban from bringing a mobile phone or smartwatch to school.

Uploading or sharing recordings or photographs taken in school

This is considered a serious breach of safeguarding and privacy expectations.

The school may apply further sanctions, which may include:

- Behaviour sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy.
- A fixed-term exclusion where appropriate.

In serious cases the school may seek advice from the Local Authority or safeguarding partners.

Safeguarding and Privacy

The use of mobile phones or a smartwatch to photograph or record others without consent can breach:

- Safeguarding guidance
- Data Protection legislation
- The privacy rights of children and staff

For this reason, recording within school is strictly prohibited.

Staff have the authority to confiscate devices where there is reason to believe that this policy has been breached.

Mobile Phones and Children Under 11

Park Community Primary School recognises increasing national concern regarding mobile phone ownership for primary-aged children.

Research referenced by public health bodies and education guidance highlights links between early smartphone access and:

- Online safety risks
- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Reduced sleep quality
- Impacts on wellbeing and attention

Welsh Government guidance relating to online safety and digital wellbeing encourages schools and families to take a cautious approach to smartphone access for younger children.

For these reasons, the school strongly discourages mobile phone use for pupils under the age of 11, unless there is a clear safeguarding or travel-related need.

Responsibility of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Carefully consider whether their child needs a mobile phone in primary school.
- Ensure children understand the rules and expectations within this policy.
- Support the school in applying sanctions where the policy is breached.

If communication with a child is required during the school day, parents should contact the school office, who will ensure messages are passed on.

This Policy has been equality impact assessed and is compliant with the Equality Act 2010. All protected characteristics have been considered including age, disability,

gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, poverty and carers with no impact determined. A copy of this policy in another language (e.g. Welsh) is only available on request. (March 2026).

Adopted by the staff and ratified by the Governing Body.

For and on behalf of the Governing Body _____

Headteacher: *R L Billington*

Date: March 2026

Date for Review: March 2028