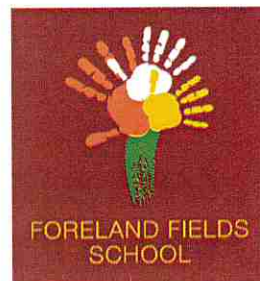


Foreland Fields School

Mobile Phone Policy (Students)



Governing Body Approval and Categories

Date of Last Scrutiny	8 th July 2026
Date (Month / Year) of Next Scrutiny and Ratification	October 2026
Date of Last Ratification	8 th July 2026
Category of the Policy	Online Safety
Named Lead for Writing the Policy	Deputy Headteacher (Health)
Named Governor for Scrutiny	Chair of Resources
Approval Body	Full Governing Body
Display on Main Web Site	Yes
NOTE: IF THIS POLICY HAS BEEN SCRUTINISED BY A DIFFERENT LEAD GOVERNOR OR BEEN RATIFIED BY A DIFFERENT GOVERNING TEAM PLEASE STATE WHICH TEAM	To be scrutinised and ratified at full governing body meeting.
Signed – Chair of Governors 	8-7-26

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Foreland Fields School is a Rights Respecting School thereby this policy ensures that the following rights are acknowledged:



Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 17 (access to information from the media) Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect). Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 28 (right to education). Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.

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Addendum to Current School Policy

This policy has been brought in due to the new statutory guidance which dictates that state-funded schools operate as "mobile phone-free environments by default". Pupils should have no access to mobile phones—or smart technology with similar functionality—throughout the entire school day, including lessons, break times, and lunchtime. The guidance has the force of law from 29th June 2026, under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, meaning schools are required to follow it.

This guidance replaces section 9.3 of the School's Online Safety Policy and will remain policy until such time as the Online Safety, Positive Behaviour and Child Protection Policies are updated in September 2026 to reflect the statutory guidance in relation to mobile phones in school.

INTRODUCTION

At Foreland Fields School, our Mobile Phone Policy (Students) aims to:

- Ensure our environment is mobile phone-free by default
- Ensure the safe, responsible and lawful use of mobile phones, where applicable
- Provide clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

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.

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.

Use of Mobile Phones by Students

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

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

On arrival at school, phones will be collected by classroom staff and be stored securely in the classroom. Phones will then be handed back to students at the end of the school day.

If a phone is needed for a specific medical condition, e.g. for a diabetic child, this will be enabled on an individual risk assessment basis.

As appropriate, students 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. These risks can include a loss of focus in lessons, classroom disruption and an increase in bullying. Students will be encouraged to see a mobile-phone free environment as desirable and valuable.

Use of smartwatches by Students

The DfE's statutory mobile phones guidance includes in the term 'mobile phones' all devices with communications and smart technology that the school chooses to include in their policy.

Smartwatches are wristwatches with smart technology in them. They can be used to tell the time, send and receive text and voice messages, make calls and listen to music. They are therefore included in the school's approach to mobile phones and, as such, are prohibited for students across the school day.

Should a student wear a smartwatch to school, this will be collected from them and stored for the duration of the day in the same way as mobile phones.

Loss, Theft or Damage

Pupils bringing mobile phones to school must ensure that their phones are appropriately labelled, ready to be stored away securely when not in use 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.

Once collected from students, the school becomes responsible for the phone/smartwatch and can be held responsible for loss, theft or damage.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while students are travelling to and from school.

Use of Mobile Phones by Staff

Refer to Staff Behaviour Policy

Visitors (including Parents) use of Mobile Phones

Refer to Online Safety Policy