

Hordle CE (VA) Primary School and Nursery

MOBILE PHONE AND SMART DEVICE POLICY 2026 - 2027

Any reference to 'the school' throughout this policy shall mean Hordle CE (VA) Primary School and Nursery.

Through an education rooted in God's love and grounded in our community through teamship, our children will shape their identity to become aspirational learners, with enquiring minds and deeply held personal values ready to take on their responsibilities; living life in all its fullness as Global Citizens of the future.



1. Aims

This policy sets out our approach to mobile phones and personal devices, in line with DfE statutory guidance *Mobile phones in schools* (2026). It should be read alongside our Behaviour and Relationships Policy, E-safety Policy, Child Protection Policy and Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance.

2. Core Expectation

Our school is a mobile-phone free environment. Pupils do not use or have access to mobile phones or smart devices at any point during the school day, including lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes. This applies to all devices with messaging, recording or internet-enabled functions, including smart watches and smart glasses.

3. Bringing Devices Onto Site

Smartphones and wearable technology - internet-enabled devices and smartwatches with communication, camera or internet functions are not required for primary education and must not be brought into school.

Our feeder secondary schools have also confirmed that they are not needed for secondary education.

We actively encourage parents to strongly consider whether their child requires a phone at this young age. If absolutely essential, pupils may bring a phone (non-smartphone where possible) onto the premises for

safety travelling to and from school. On arrival, the device must be switched off and handed to the school office where it will be securely stored and returned at the end of the day. The device must not be used whilst the child is on the school premises.

Basic fitness trackers that do not have communication or recording functions are permitted. Any devices that cannot be silenced or cause a distraction to learning are not permitted.

4. Communication with Home

Urgent messages, including collection arrangements, must go through the school office — not a pupil's device. Parents are asked to support this.

5. Teaching and Reinforcing Expectations

Pupils will be taught the risks associated with mobile phone and device use, including distraction, disruption, bullying and online harm through our 'Device Managed Childhoods Programme'. This policy is reinforced at the start of each academic year, including through the home-school agreement, and at regular intervals through the year.

6. Role of Parents

Parents have been consulted on the use of mobile phones in line with the national 'Smartphone Free Childhood' initiatives. This policy is available on the school website and parents are asked to reinforce it at home, including discussing the associated risks and the benefits of a phone-free school day. Any parent questions or concerns should be raised with the school office.

7. Staff Expectations

Staff will not use personal phones in front of pupils, and will only make or receive calls in staff-only areas. Governors and pupil-facing visitors follow the same rule.

The Headteacher, and staff with express permission, may use a pre-approved device for evidence-gathering, monitoring or school social media.

8. Recording Devices including smart glasses

No consent is given, implied or otherwise, for filming or recording of pupils or staff via mobile phones, smart glasses or similar wearable recording technology, on school premises unless there is an organised event where a statement is read out explaining the permissions around recording the event.

No staff member gives consent to be recorded in meetings via any device. However, where necessary note taking is allowed.

9. Monitoring, Searching and Enforcement

The school maintains appropriate filtering and monitoring systems. Pupils may be searched for mobile phones or related devices where there are reasonable grounds, in line with statutory guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

10. Sanctions and Confiscation

Breaches are dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy and may include confiscation and further sanctions. A phone or smart device found in a pupil's possession during the school day will be confiscated in line with DfE guidance; a parent/carer must collect it at the earliest convenient time.

11. Safeguarding

Any misuse raising safeguarding concerns is managed under the Child Protection Policy.

12. Reasonable Adjustments

Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with disabilities or medical conditions (e.g. diabetes) where device access is necessary to manage their condition, as agreed in their EHCP / IHCP and carefully, proportionately managed.

13. Trips and Events

Mobile phones and smart devices are not permitted on school trips or residential visits, with no exception other than the medical/disability need set out in Section 12, subject to a risk assessment. Parents attending school events must not use mobile devices on site, except to photograph their own child where the event organiser has explicitly permitted this.

14. Device Responsibility

Any device brought onto site is the responsibility of its owner. The school accepts no liability for loss, theft or damage.

15. Publication and Review

This policy is published on the school website and shared with parents via the home-school agreement. It will be reviewed annually, or sooner following changes to DfE guidance or local circumstances.

	DATE	Ethos	Equality	Practice	Guidance
This policy was reviewed and screened by the Governing Body	2026 / 2027	☐	☐	☐	☐
Next scheduled review:	Academic Year 2027 / 2028				