



# MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Approved: March 2026

Next Review: March 2029

## **1. Introduction**

This policy sets out how Bosvigo School implements the Department for Education's updated guidance on mobile phones in schools (19<sup>th</sup> January 2026), which expects all schools to be mobile-phone-free environments by default.

The guidance states that pupils should not have access to their mobile phones during lessons, between lessons, or at break and lunchtimes, and that schools must ensure pupils do not use phones at any point during the school day.

As a primary school, our priority is to maintain a safe, calm and distraction-free learning environment for all pupils.

## **2. Policy Statement**

Mobile phones and personal smart devices are not permitted to be used by pupils at any time during the school day. This includes:

- Before school upon entering the site
- During classroom activities
- During transitions between activities
- At breaktimes and lunchtimes
- After school while still on site

This policy includes mobile phones, smart watches with messaging or calling functions, and any device capable of sending/receiving messages or recording audio/video, in line with DfE definitions. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

## **3. Bringing Mobile Phones to School**

We recognise that some older pupils (usually Year 5 or 6) may need a phone for safety when walking to or from school independently. Phones may therefore be brought to school but not kept with the pupil.

### **Procedure:**

- Phones must be switched off before entering the school grounds.
- Phones must be handed into the school office or placed in the class phone collection box during registration.

- Devices will be stored safely and returned to pupils at the end of the day.

This approach is supported by DfE-recommended practice, where many schools require phones to be handed in or kept in secure storage to ensure a phone-free day. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

#### **4. Smart Watches**

Smart watches that allow messaging, calling, or internet access are not permitted. Basic step-counter style watches without communication functions may be worn.

#### **5. Expectations for Pupils**

Pupils will be taught:

- The reasons why school is a mobile-free environment
- The risks of mobile phone use including distraction, disruption and bullying, as outlined in the DfE guidance [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- Online safety as part of our Computing and PSHE curriculum

Pupils must follow the school's procedures without argument. Repeated breaches will be treated as a behaviour concern.

#### **6. Expectations for Staff**

- Staff will not use personal mobile phones in front of pupils, except where necessary for a legitimate school purpose (e.g., two-factor authentication, use of school apps, behaviour logging).
- Staff must model high standards, supporting the DfE expectation that phones should not be used by staff in front of pupils throughout the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

## **7. The Role of Parents and Carers**

Parents are expected to support this policy by:

- Ensuring their child only brings a phone when absolutely necessary
- Ensuring phones are switched off before the child enters school
- Using the school office for messages during the day
- Reinforcing the importance of staying safe online, in line with DfE recommendations [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

If a parent needs to contact their child urgently, they must phone the school office, not the child's device.

## **8. Sanctions for Breaching the Policy**

The DfE confirms schools may use sanctions including confiscation where pupils breach the policy, and that staff are legally protected when confiscating devices if acting lawfully and proportionately. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

At Bosvigo School, the following will apply:

1. First breach: device confiscated until end of the day.
2. Second breach: device confiscated; parent contacted; phone returned only to parent.
3. Repeated breaches: meeting with parent; phone may be banned from site for a fixed period.

Confiscation periods may be longer if required and proportionate.

## 9. Searching Pupils

In line with statutory DfE powers, the headteacher or authorised staff may search a pupil or their possessions if there are reasonable grounds to suspect they are carrying a prohibited item, including a mobile phone if school rules identify it as such. Searches will always be conducted in line with the school's searching, screening and confiscation procedures. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

## 10. Reasonable Adjustments and Exceptional Circumstances

Bosvigo School recognises that there may be legitimate reasons for a pupil to require mobile phone access during the day, for example:

- A disability requiring a phone-linked medical device (e.g., glucose monitor)
- Health needs under the Children and Families Act 2014
- Circumstances relating to safeguarding or caring responsibilities

The DfE explicitly recognises that schools must make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils or medical needs, including where devices form part of their management plan. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

Any agreed adjustments will:

- be authorised by the headteacher or SENCo;
- allow use only for specific purposes;
- be supervised and restricted to specific times/locations.

## 11. Mobile Phones on School Trips or Residentials

Phones are generally not permitted on trips, to ensure attention, safety and high-quality experiences. The school may allow exceptions on longer residentials where appropriate; however, personal devices will be kept by staff and use will remain restricted, so that learning is not disrupted, in line with DfE recommendations. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

## **12. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- DfE guidance changes;
- feedback from staff, parents, pupils or Ofsted indicates a need;
- technological developments require an update.