Crosshill School

Prepare and flourish

Mobile Phone Policy (2026)

Oak Learning Partnership

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1. Policy Statement

This policy sets out how the school will meet the Department for Education (DfE) expectation that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, with use prohibited throughout the school day; including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

It also aligns with the updated 2026 guidance requiring schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar smart technology as part of a consistent behaviour framework.

The school does not accept any responsibility for loss or damages associated with the storage or confiscation of mobile phones or other electronic devices.

2. Purpose

The aims of this policy are to:

- Reduce distraction and disruption to learning caused by mobile phones.
- Minimise safeguarding risks, bullying, and exposure to harmful online content.
- Promote a calm, safe, and supportive educational environment.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils during the entire school day (arrival to departure).
- All school premises including playgrounds, classrooms, corridors and dining areas.
- All devices with smart functionality: mobile phones, smart watches, and any device capable of messaging, notifications, audio/video recording, or internet access.

4. Policy Expectations

4.1 Pupil Expectations

Pupils must not use, see, or hear mobile phones or smart devices at any point during the school day. All mobile phones must either be:

Not brought onto the school site, or

Handed in at the start of the school day for secure storage.

Any breach of the policy will result in sanctions consistent with the behaviour policy (see Section 7).

4.2 Staff Expectations

Staff must model appropriate behaviour by avoiding use of personal mobile phones and smart watches in front of pupils, unless for emergency or operational reasons. Staff should utilize office spaces, staff room and outside of the school grounds to engage in personal use. If staff are awaiting emergency callbacks staff should inform their pathway lead and ensure any devices are out of sight of students e.g. in their pockets.

4.3 Parent/Carer Expectations

Parents must support the school's phone-free environment by ensuring children do not bring phones or keep them switched off and stored appropriately.

Parents should reinforce messages about safe and reduced social media use, supporting the School's policy.

Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, this should only be in urgent and exceptional circumstances. In such circumstances they should direct communications to the school office who will aim to facilitate contact.

5. Exceptions & Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that some pupils may require phone access under exceptional circumstances, including:

- Medical needs (e.g., diabetes monitoring via smartphone).
- Disabilities or SEND where adjustments are essential.
- Unique safeguarding or family circumstances (e.g., young carers).

All exceptions must be:

- Approved by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Headteacher;
- Documented in a pupil's individual care plan or risk assessment.

6. Residential & Off-Site Activities

For trips, and residentials, additional rules may be set if they do not undermine the overall mobile-free environment.

Insert expectations for trips and residentials

7. Sanctions & Consequences

Sanctions and consequences align with our school's behaviour for learning policy and may include:

- Confiscation of the device
- Reflections and Restorative
- Behaviour points or loss of privileges
- Parental meetings

(Sanctions must be in line with the school's behaviour policy and applied consistently.)

Confiscated phones will be stored securely and returned only to parents where appropriate.

8. Communication of the Policy

The school will ensure that the mobile phone policy is:

Published and accessible to pupils, staff, and parents.

Reinforced through assemblies, tutor time, signage, and parent updates.

Reviewed annually as part of the behaviour policy review process.

9. Leadership oversight

Leaders and Governors will evaluate:

Whether the school's mobile phone policy is clear, communicated and understood.

How consistently the policy is applied by staff and pupils.

The impact of the policy on behaviour, learning and wellbeing.

Consistency of implementation.

10. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed every 12 months by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Governors, considering:

- Feedback from staff, pupils and parents
- Safeguarding updates
- Changes in DfE or Ofsted requirements