BREDON HILL ACADEMY

PUPIL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Review Deadline:	September 2027
Review Frequency:	Annual
Author:	BHA-SLT
Reviewer:	BHA-LGB
Audience:	Intranet, Website

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1. Introduction and aims

At Bredon Hill Academy our policy aims to:

- Ensure our environment is mobile phone-free by default.
- Ensure the safe, responsible and lawful use of mobile phones, in the rare circumstance they are needed.
- 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, smart phones and similar devices.

2. 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, which became statutory in June 2026 and behaviour guidance. Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is Keeping Children Safe in Education.

3. Use of mobile phones by pupils

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

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

- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in school bags at all times.
- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in school bags whilst on the school bus, within the school grounds.

- Year 6 are not permitted to bring smart phones onto the school site.
- In the event that a Year 6 child needs to have a smartphone with them for the day (for example split families with changeover day during the week), it will be handed in at the school office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day.
- Smartwatches or watches that use Bluetooth connectivity must remain at home or switched off in school bags at all times.

Pupils 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. Pupils will be encouraged to see a mobile-phone free environment as desirable and valuable.

5.1 Use of smartwatches and other smart technology by pupils

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. This includes smart glasses (e.g Meta Glasses)

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, take photos and recordings and listen to music. Some smartwatches have wellness and health-related features. Smart glasses are glasses with smart technology in them. They can be used to send and receive messages, make calls and record images.

- Smartwatches or similar devices must be left at home or switched off and remain in bags at all times.
- Smart glasses are not permitted on the school site at all and must remain at home.

5.2 Exceptions for Special Circumstances

We may permit pupils to use a mobile phone in school, due to exceptional circumstances. Permission will only be granted where there is a documented safeguarding or medical necessity, for example diabetes monitoring. To request such permission, parents/carers should contact the school office.

In this circumstance, pupils will be given permission to have their smartphone switched on but it will need to remain in their school bag at all times unless in an emergency.

5.3 Sanctions

If a pupil is found to be in breach of this policy the following sanctions will be applied:

- The mobile phone will be confiscated and parents/carers will be informed. Parents/carers will be invited to school to collect the phone at their earliest convenience. (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006)
- Pupils will be given a lunchtime detention.
- Should the use of the mobile phone be deemed to be in serious breach of school rules, further sanctions may be applied, such as removal from lessons or suspension.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. At Bredon Hill Academy we take such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)

- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

5. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing mobile phones to school must ensure that their phones are appropriately labelled with their name, switched off and that it remains in their school bag all day.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in a named envelope and kept in a locked cabinet in the school office until collected by a parents/carer.

6. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority and any other relevant organisations

If there are any concerns regarding this policy, these should be brought to the attention of Mr. M Horton, Headteacher in a timely manner.

7. Appendix 1: Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their smart phone to school

PUPIL DETAILS	
Pupil name:	
Year group/class:	
Parent/carer(s) name(s):	

The school has agreed to allow ……to bring their smart phone to school because they:

- Need the phone to support their medical needs (e.g. diabetes)

Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must abide by the school's policy on the use of mobile phones, and its acceptable use agreement (copy in learning journal).

The school reserves the right to revoke permission if a pupil does not abide by the policy.

Parent/carer signature: _____

Pupil signature (where appropriate): _____

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY	
Authorised by:	
Date:	