



**Trinity CE
Primary School**
Who is my neighbour?

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Signed	Date	Review Date
Charlotte Whittle, Headteacher	July 2026	July 2028
Eileen Barnes-Vachell and Iliffe Kenyon, Co-Chair of Governors	July 2026	July 2028

1. Introduction and aims

At Trinity CE Primary School we recognise that mobile phones are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents/carers and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents/carers 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
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every two years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

2.2 Governors

The governors are also responsible for monitoring the policy every two years, reviewing it, and holding the Headteacher accountable for its implementation.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be

restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The Headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information, including entering such data into generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT and Google Bard).

Please find more detailed guidance on data protection can be found our school's data protection policy or ICT acceptable use policy.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents/carers or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents/carers or pupils.

Please find more detailed guidance on data protection can be found our school's ICT Acceptable Use policy and Online Safety Use policy.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents/carers. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office

3.5 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action. Please refer to the school's staff disciplinary policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

- From September 2026, all Primary Schools in the Henley area are going smartphone free, meaning our Year 6 pupils are not permitted to bring a smartphone to school
- For the avoidance of doubt, when we refer to mobile phones for pupils we are referring to 'dumb' / feature phones that are suitable for basic communication (call and text). Smartphone are phones that can access the internet, apps, social media, email, camera, music / video screening etc.
- Year 6 pupils are allowed to bring a mobile to school, when travelling to school by themselves
- As soon as pupils arrive at the school gate, their phone is to be switched off and taken straight to the school reception
- No pupil should take their mobile phone onto the school playground
- All phones must be clearly named if they are to be left in school
- Smart watches are not allowed in school - if a child has a smart watch they are to be removed and left with the child's mobile phone, clearly named in the school office each morning.
- At the end of the day, pupils may return to the office to collect their phone, but should only turn it on and use it once off the school grounds.

4.1 Sanctions

- If a child is found with a mobile phone on school property, it will be immediately confiscated and our behaviour policy will be followed. The phone will be stored in the school office and parents will be informed.

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child

- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils, Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents/carers
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents/carers must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled and are stored securely when not in use (see section 4 of this policy).

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or PIN codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

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.

Lost phones should be returned to the school office. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

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

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

8. Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school

Ahead of the start of each academic year, a Google form will be sent to parents / carers of Year 6 pupils asking that parents / carers confirm that they have discussed the School's Mobile Phone Policy and that they agree to abide by the points in this Policy.

9. Mobile phone information for visitors

When visitors sign into this school electronically, the information below will be on Custr and they will be asked to read, acknowledge and agree to this.

Use of mobile phones in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to a location where pupils are not present - for example the staffroom or office space.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils
- The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.
- A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.