



Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Policy - DRAFT

School: Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy

Policy owner: Mrs M. Watts – Headteacher / Governing Body

Date adopted: September 2026

Review date: September 2027

1. Purpose and statutory context

Christ the King is committed to providing a calm, safe and supportive environment in which all children can learn, play and develop positive relationships.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the **Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, *Mobile phones in schools***, which came into effect on **1 September 2026**. The guidance establishes the expectation that schools should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**, with pupils having no access to mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

At Christ the King, this expectation applies to all pupils from **Nursery through to Year 6**, with the specific Year 6 arrangement set out below to support those children who may travel home independently. For the purposes of this policy, references to mobile phones also include other smart technology with similar functionality, including devices capable of sending or receiving messages or notifications or recording audio or video.

The policy is intended to:

- minimise distraction and disruption to learning;
- promote positive face-to-face interaction and relationships;
- support children's wellbeing and safety;
- reduce the risks associated with inappropriate recording, communication and online behaviour;
- provide clear and consistent expectations for pupils, staff and parents/carers.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Behaviour Policy and other relevant safeguarding, online safety, medical and emergency procedures.

2. Expectations for pupils

Children in **Nursery to Year 5 must not bring mobile phones into school.**

Children in **Year 6 may bring a mobile phone to school where this is necessary or appropriate because they may be travelling home independently.**

Year 6 pupils who bring a phone to school must follow this procedure:

1. On arrival at school, the phone must be **switched off**.
2. The phone must be handed to the member of staff responsible for collecting the phones within the classroom.
3. Phones will be stored securely and **kept away from children and inaccessible throughout the school day**.
4. Children will not have access to their phones during lessons, between lessons, breaktimes or lunchtime.
5. Phones will be returned to the children as they leave the school premises at the end of the school day.

The purpose of this arrangement is to enable children who need a phone for their journey home to have access to it outside school while ensuring that the school remains a mobile phone-free environment during the school day.

3. Exceptional circumstances and reasonable adjustments

The school recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where a child requires access to a mobile phone or similar device during the school day.

This may include circumstances relating to:

- a medical condition;
- disability or SEND;
- a specific safeguarding or family circumstance;
- another individual need where an adaptation or reasonable adjustment is appropriate.

The school will comply with its legal duties, including its duty to make reasonable adjustments where required and its duties in relation to pupils with medical conditions.

Any request for an exception will be considered on an **individual basis** by the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team and, where appropriate, in consultation with parents/carers and relevant professionals. Where access is agreed, the school will normally specify the **purpose, times and location** in which the device may be accessed. An agreed exception does not provide unrestricted access to the device throughout the school day.

4. Contacting children during the school day

If a parent or carer needs to contact their child, they should contact the **school office**. The school will facilitate communication with the child where this is necessary and appropriate.

Children who need to contact their parents or carers during the school day should speak to a member of staff and use the arrangements provided by the school.

5. Staff use of mobile phones

All staff are expected to model the school's mobile phone expectations and to support the consistent implementation of this policy.

Staff should **not use their personal mobile phones for personal reasons in front of pupils during the school day**. The school recognises, however, that staff may need access to a mobile phone for legitimate **professional, safeguarding or emergency purposes**. Staff need their mobile phone to remain accessible within the classroom as part of the school's **lockdown and emergency procedures**. This is an important operational requirement and is permitted within this policy.

Staff may also use a mobile phone or similar device for an appropriate work-related purpose, for example:

- as part of emergency or lockdown procedures;
- where required for safeguarding or communication relating to an emergency;
- for an agreed educational or professional purpose, such as playing music;
- for another legitimate work-related function where authorised or appropriate.

Personal use of mobile phones during the school day should be avoided and must not take place in front of pupils. If there is a personal need to use a mobile phone, such as awaiting a medical call back, the staff member should move to the staff room or another private space away from the children before taking any calls. This includes personal messaging, social media, personal calls, browsing or other non-work-related activity.

Staff must **not use personal mobile phones to photograph or video children**.

Where photographs, videos or recordings of children are required for an authorised school purpose, staff must use the school's approved equipment and procedures.

6. Breaches of the policy

The school expects all pupils to follow this policy. Where a pupil breaches the policy, the school may apply an appropriate sanction in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

This may include the confiscation of a mobile phone or similar device until the end of the day, where appropriate and proportionate. Parents may also be called to come and collect a device that should not be in school as part of this policy.

Any decision to confiscate a device will take account of the child's age, individual circumstances, SEND and any other relevant factors.

Where a breach raises a safeguarding concern, staff will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy.

The school's arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions will be in accordance with relevant legislation and DfE guidance.

7. Teaching children about mobile phone use

The school will help children to understand both the risks and benefits associated with mobile phone and online technology through our PSHE and RSHE curriculum, including online safety.

Age-appropriate teaching will address issues such as:

- distraction and loss of focus;
- online bullying and harmful communication;
- privacy and sharing information;
- the risks associated with taking and sharing photographs or recordings;
- responsible and respectful online behaviour;
- the benefits of spending time away from mobile phones and digital devices.

8. Parents and carers

Parents and carers are asked to support the school's mobile phone-free approach and to discuss with their children the reasons for the policy.

Parents and carers should ensure that any Year 6 child who brings a mobile phone to school understands the requirement to switch it off and hand it in on arrival.

The school will communicate the policy, expectations and consequences clearly to pupils, staff and parents/carers and will review the effectiveness of its arrangements regularly.

9. Related policies and guidance

This policy should be read alongside:

- **Department for Education – Mobile phones in schools** (statutory guidance);
- **Behaviour Policy**;
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**;
- **Lockdown and Emergency Procedures**;
- **Online Safety / Acceptable Use Policy**;
- **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy**;
- **SEND Policy**, where relevant.

The school will review its mobile phone arrangements, including staff use, regularly to ensure that they remain appropriate, consistently applied and in accordance with current statutory guidance.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to legislation, DfE guidance or the school's procedures.