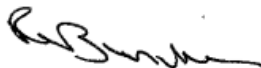


Wallop Primary School
Mobile Phones Policy

Produced By:	K. Simons Headteacher using DFE guidance
Approved for School: Headteacher: K Simons Date: 22.9.26	 (Signature)
Approved by Governing Body: Chair/Deputy Chair: P. Bunche Date: 22.9.26	 (Signature)

1. Introduction and Aims

At Wallop Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, focused, and nurturing environment where children can learn and play, while developing vital social skills without digital distraction.

In line with our Test Valley and Andover cluster school commitment established in October 2025, and supported by Department for Education (DfE) guidance, Wallop Primary School is a smartphone-free environment for the children.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure our school environment is mobile phone-free by default for all pupils.
- Protect children's mental health, wellbeing, focus, and sleep by reducing exposure to social media, cyberbullying, and inappropriate content.
- Provide clear guidelines on device usage for pupils, staff, parents/carers, and visitors.
- Complement school policies on Safeguarding, Child Protection, Data Protection, and Behaviour.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy complies with section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory guidance on *Mobile Phones in Schools*, *Behaviour in Schools* guidance, and *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE).

3. Pupil Policy

3.1 Prohibited Devices

Smartphones, smartwatches (with cellular/messaging/camera capabilities), and internet-enabled personal devices are strictly prohibited from school premises for pupils. Pupils must not bring smartphones to school at all so this includes on the school bus, during the school day, including at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

3.2 "Brick" / Feature Phones Only



Due to the nature of our school site, where most children use Hampshire School Transport or are dropped off in the school car park, it will be rare for children to need a phone at Wallop Primary School. However, recognising that some pupils in exceptional circumstances may require a means of contact with parents/carers, non-smart "brick" phones are permitted under strict conditions:

- Basic feature phones with no internet access, no social media, and no camera capabilities (e.g., Nokia 105, Ushining Flip Phone, Oakcastle SIM-free phone)
- Feature phones must be switched off before passing through the school gates. Upon arrival in the classroom, the pupil must immediately hand the phone to their class teacher/school office. Phones will be stored securely and returned at home time.
- Parents/carers must complete and submit the *Basic Phone Agreement Form* (Appendix 1) before a child may bring a basic device to school.

3.3 Medical Exceptions

Where a pupil requires a smart device for documented medical monitoring (e.g., continuous glucose monitoring systems for diabetes), an exception will be formally granted by the Headteacher. The device must be used strictly for its designated health purpose.

4. Sanctions

Situation	Action Taken
Unauthorised phone/smartwatch on site for the first time.	Phone stored securely in the school office; pupil collects it at the end of the day and reminded of the rules. Parents informed.
Repeated incident of Smartphone/watch being brought to school	Item stored in the secure office cupboard. A parent/carers must collect the device in person.
Suspected harmful content / Safeguarding risk	Staff retain search powers under DfE guidelines if there is reason to suspect prohibited or inappropriate content, although staff will not look at photographs/images/videos. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be informed.

5. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

- Staff (including supply staff, volunteers, and student teachers) must not use personal mobile phones in front of pupils or during contact time. Personal device use is restricted to non-contact time in designated pupil-free areas (e.g., the staffroom).
- Staff may provide the main school office contact number for urgent family contacts. Personal exceptions to having a mobile phone on their person must be pre-approved by the Headteacher.
- Staff must never process pupil personal data on personal devices or input pupil details into generative AI tools on any device.
- Staff must never take photos or videos of pupils on personal devices or give personal contact details/social media handles to pupils or parents.
- Staff supervising educational visits will use school-issued mobile phones for communication with parents.
- Where staff are also parents, communication with other parents must not breach the staff code of conduct.

6. Parents, Carers, Visitors, and Contractors

- Parents/carers are encouraged not to use mobile devices on site and to prioritise verbal communication with the community
- Visitors and contractors must keep devices silent and out of sight while on school grounds.
- Taking photos or recordings of children (other than your own child at designated public events such as sports days) is strictly prohibited. Photographs taken at school events must be for personal use only and never uploaded to social media.
- Parents/carers needing to convey urgent messages to their children during the day must contact the main school office directly.

7. Loss, Theft, or Damage

The school accepts no liability for the loss, damage, or theft of any personal mobile devices brought onto school grounds or trips. Parents/carers sending feature phones for travel purposes do so at their own risk.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Board of Governors.

Date of review: September 2026	Date of implementation: September 2026
Next review due: September 2028	Reviewing Committee: FGB



Appendix 1: Basic Phone Permission Form

Pupil Name: _____ **Class/Year:** _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

I request permission for my child to bring a basic feature phone ("brick" phone without internet/camera) to school for their journey to/from Wallop Primary School.

I confirm that:

1. The device is a basic non-smart phone (e.g., basic call/text feature phone).
2. My child understands the phone must be switched off before entering school gates and handed to staff immediately.
3. I understand the school accepts no liability for loss, damage, or theft of the device.

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by Headteacher: _____ **Date:** _____