

Sawley Junior School



Pupil Use of Mobile Technology Policy

Approved by:	Headteacher
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VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
V0.1	Nov 2022	AB	Approved by HT
V0.2	July 2023	AB	Approved by HT - LGB (6.7.2023) Removal of permission to wear mobile technology such as a smart watch.
V0.3	March 2026	NS	Clarifications: return of mobile phones at the end of the day when devices can be switched on. Use of mobile phones at school events
V0.4	July 2026	NS	Updated to reflect new DFE guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools

Introduction

At Sawley Junior School, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and distraction-free learning environment where pupils can focus on learning and develop positive relationships with others. In line with Department for Education statutory guidance, Sawley Junior School operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. This includes lesson times, transitions around school, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

This policy should be read alongside the school's:

- Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Pupil Acceptable Use Policy

Mobile Technology Covered by this Policy

For the purposes of this policy, mobile technology includes:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smartwatches
- Fitness trackers with communication functions
- Any device capable of:
 - sending or receiving messages
 - receiving notifications
 - accessing the internet
 - making calls
 - recording photographs, audio or video

Smartwatches and other wearable technology are not permitted in school.

Brining a mobile phone to school

Pupils may only bring a mobile phone to school where there is a significant and demonstrable need, such as supporting safe travel to and from school, medical needs, safeguarding considerations or other exceptional circumstances agreed by the school. Permission must be requested by a parent or carer through the school's Mobile Phone Permission Request Form and approved by the school before a device is brought onto the premises.

Sawley Junior School operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.

Before a mobile phone can be brought onto the school site:

- A parent or carer must complete the school's Mobile Phone Permission Request Form.
- There must be a clear explanation as to why the child needs to bring a phone to school and why this is considered necessary.
- Parents/carers must confirm that they have read, understood and agree to comply with this policy.
- Permission must be granted by the school before a device can be brought onto site.

The school reserves the right to refuse or withdraw permission where it is considered unnecessary or where this policy has been breached.

Expectations for Pupils

Where permission has been granted for a pupil to bring a mobile phone to school:

- The device must be switched off before entering the school site.
- The device must not be used at any point on the journey through the school grounds.
- The device must be handed directly to the class teacher immediately upon entering the school building.
- The device will be stored in a designated secure location throughout the school day.
- Pupils must not have access to their device at any point during the school day, including during lessons, transitions, breaktimes, lunchtimes, clubs or other activities.

Devices will only be returned by a member of staff at the end of the school day.

Once returned, devices must remain switched off until the pupil has left the school grounds.

Pupils must not use mobile phones:

- During lessons
- During movement around school
- At breaktime
- At lunchtime
- During clubs
- During school events, performances, trips or other activities unless specifically authorised by the Headteacher.

Under no circumstances may pupils use a mobile device to photograph, film or record staff, pupils or visitors whilst on the school site may pupils use a mobile device to photograph, film or record staff, pupils or visitors whilst on the school site.

Responsibility for Devices

Mobile phones are brought into school at the pupil's and parent's own risk.

The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage occurring whilst devices are being transported to and from school.

Where devices are handed to staff for storage, the school will take reasonable steps to store them securely in accordance with this policy.

Parents and pupils are encouraged to ensure devices are clearly labelled and protected by an appropriate passcode or security setting.

Reasonable Adjustments, Safeguarding and Medical Needs

The school recognises that some pupils may require access to mobile technology because of a disability, medical condition or other identified need. Examples may include the use of medical monitoring systems connected to a mobile phone.

Any exception to this policy will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead and documented as part of a healthcare plan, safeguarding plan or other agreed support arrangement.

Where adaptations are made, pupils will only be permitted to use devices for the agreed purpose and in accordance with agreed arrangements

Communication with Pupils During the School Day

Parents and carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so through the school office and should not contact pupils on their personal mobile phones during the school day.

Likewise, pupils who need to contact home during the school day should do so through a member of staff or the school office.

Breaches of the Policy

Mobile phones and other forms of mobile technology are identified as prohibited items within the school's Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy.

A breach of this policy includes:

- Bringing a mobile phone onto site without prior permission.
- Failing to hand the device to the class teacher immediately upon entering the school building.
- Retaining possession of a device during the school day.
- Attempting to access a device that has been stored by school staff.
- Using a device at any point during the school day.
- Bringing a smartwatch or other unauthorised mobile technology into school.
- Using a device to take photographs, video or audio recordings.
- Refusing to follow staff instructions relating to a device.
- Any device used in breach of this policy will be confiscated.
- The school may require a parent or carer to collect the device.
- Permission to bring a device to school may also be withdrawn.

Consequences will be applied in accordance with the school's Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy. When determining an appropriate response, staff will consider the individual circumstances of the pupil, including age, SEND, medical needs and any agreed reasonable adjustments.

Searching and Confiscation

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.

Under common law, school staff also have the power to search a pupil for an item if the pupil agrees. The member of staff should ensure the pupil understands the reason for the search and how it will be conducted so that their agreement is informed.

At Sawley Junior School, only members of the Senior Leadership Team are authorised to carry out searches. In their absence, staff should seek advice from a Designated Safeguarding Lead and, wherever possible, seek parental involvement before carrying out a search.

See the DfE guidance *Searching, Screening and Confiscation* for further information.

Safeguarding

The misuse of mobile technology may raise safeguarding concerns.

Where a breach of this policy gives staff reason to believe that a child may be at risk of harm, appropriate safeguarding procedures will be followed, including consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Serious incidents involving the recording, sharing or distribution of images, video or audio will be managed in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.