



West Monkton Church of England School

A place for growing together and learning to fly.



Mobile Device Policy

September 2026- draft

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Aims and Intent

To create a whole school approach to:

- Safe and secure use of mobile devices
- Respect for, and to, mobile device usage

This leads to an environment that recognises the increased dependency on technology but maintains safeguarding as a priority. As our children grow up in an increasingly device-centred world, we, as a school, recognise the need for a continuous and adaptive mobile phone policy that ensures all pupils in our school are safeguarded against the risks associated with mobile devices.

Expectations

In line with Department for Education guidance (January 2026), which states that schools should be mobile phone-free by default, mobile phones are not permitted in school unless physically needed for safety.

Those mobile phones brought in by pupils with permission must be turned off before entering the school gates and handed to reception upon arrival. These devices will be stored securely in school. Phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

Under statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance, while schools must be mobile phone-free environments by default, they have an explicit legal duty to provide "reasonable adjustments" for medical conditions under the Equality Act 2010. If your child requires access to a mobile phone device for medical reasons, this will need to be approved by the Headteacher and/or DSL and a risk assessment will be completed.

The school will accept no responsibility for lost, damaged or broken phones.

Other mobile devices

Smart devices, such as smart watches or smart rings, are not permitted in school.

As above and in line with guidance from DfE, if your child requires access to other mobile devices such as smart watches for medical reasons, this will need to be approved by the Headteacher and/or DSL and a risk assessment will be completed.

We recognise that as technology develops, so do the accessories that children wear. However, given the available functions of smart devices and the influence they can have on learning or pupils' mental health, the school does not permit them in school.

If a child brings a smart device into school, the school reserves the right to ask for the device to be removed and stored until the end of the day.

The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of mobile phones or other smart devices.

Consequences

If a pupil's phone is seen in school, it will be confiscated and the parent/carer will need to collect it from the school office. Further incidents may result in sanctions aligned to the school behaviour policy.

Searching

Staff in school, at the discretion of the headteacher and under DfE guidance, have the power to search for mobile phones where it is suspected that a mobile phone or mobile device may be concealed.

Appendix

Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education on:

- Behaviour and discipline in schools
- Searching, screening and confiscation
- The Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- SEND Code of Practice