



Mobile Phone Policy

1. Purpose & Core Principles

In accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, Seaton St Paul's C of E Junior School maintains a **strict phone-free environment**. This policy ensures that all pupils are focused on learning, protected from digital distractions and safeguarded against online risks during the school day.

2. Scope & Rules for Pupils

This policy applies to all pupils while on school premises, during school trips and during wrap-around care (breakfast and after-school clubs).

- **Default Rule:** Pupils are strictly prohibited from having personal mobile phones or smart devices (including smartwatches with cellular/camera capabilities) in their possession during the school day.
- **Sanctions:** Any unauthorised device found in a pupil's possession will be confiscated immediately, stored in the school office and returned only to a parent or guardian at the end of the day.

3. Daily Hand-In & Secure Storage Procedures

We recognise that some older pupils who walk to or from school independently may carry a phone for safety.

1. **Immediate Hand-In:** Upon arrival at school, pupils must turn off their device and hand it directly into the school office.
2. **Secure Storage:** Devices will be stored securely in a locked cabinet for the duration of the school day.
3. **End of Day Collection:** Phones will be returned to pupils at the final dismissal bell, where children must walk round to the office and ring the door bell
4. **Disclaimer:** The school accepts no liability for loss or damage to devices brought onto the premises.

4. Parent & Emergency Communications

- Parents must not attempt to contact their children directly via personal devices during school hours.
- All emergency messages or urgent logistical updates must be channelled directly through the **Main School Office**.
- If a pupil needs to contact home, school staff will facilitate the call using an official school telephone.

5. Approved Medical & Accessibility Exemptions

Reasonable adjustments will be made under the Equality Act for verified requirements:

- **Medical Needs:** Pupils requiring smartphones to monitor medical conditions (e.g., Continuous Glucose Monitors for type 1 diabetes) are permitted access under an agreed Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP).
- **Special Educational Needs:** Specific assistive technology exceptions must be formally approved by the Head Teacher and the SENDCo.

6. Staff Conduct & Modelling

- To lead by example, staff members must not use personal mobile phones in front of pupils during instructional time or while on duty.
- Staff personal phone usage is strictly restricted to designated staff areas (e.g., the staff room) during break and lunch periods.