Kingsway Junior School

'Developing Confident, Enthusiastic and Happy Learners!'

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy for pupils

Based on the 'The Key' 2026

Responsible committee	Governing Body
Date Reviewed	Autumn 2026
Next Review	Autumn 2027
Signed on behalf of the Governing Body	*Caroline Loison*
Print Name	Caroline Loison

Dignity Statement

Kingsway Junior School is committed to providing a learning environment where all children are treated with dignity and respect. As stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children are born with dignity, which cannot be taken away, regardless of behaviour, ability, disability, race, economic background, gender, sexuality or beliefs. Duty Bearers' protection of children's rights affords them this dignity and allows them to access education free from barriers.

1. Rationale

Kingsway Junior School recognises that some parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils may wish their child to carry a mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school unsupervised. However, we are committed to maintaining a mobile phone-free environment during the school day to:

- Minimise distractions from learning
- Protect pupils from potential online harm, cyberbullying, and inappropriate content
- Reduce risks associated with camera functions, location tagging, and social media access
- Prevent theft and related safeguarding concerns

The school does not encourage pupils to bring mobile phones to school. This policy sets out the limited circumstances under which mobile phones may be brought onto school premises and the strict conditions that apply.

Smartwatches and other smart devices with communication, internet, or camera capabilities are not permitted at school for the same safeguarding and educational reasons.

This policy aligns with:

- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026**, which states that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, with pupils not having access to their phones throughout the day
- **DfE guidance on mobile phones in schools** (published February 2024), which supports headteachers in implementing policies that restrict pupil access to mobile phones during the school day

2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils at Kingsway Junior School. It covers the use of mobile phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices:

- On school premises during the school day
- During school-organised activities, trips, and visits
- In relation to online conduct that affects the school community (as outlined in our Behaviour Policy)

3. Mobile Phone Rules

3.1 Permission to Bring Mobile Phones

Only Year 5 and Year 6 pupils may apply to bring a mobile phone to school. Parents must:

- Complete and return the signed permission form (Appendix A)
- Discuss the rules and expectations with their child
- Provide a clear reason why their child needs to bring a mobile phone

3.2 Use During the School Day

Mobile phones must be switched off as soon as pupils enter the school premises. The following procedures apply:

- Pupils must hand their switched-off phone to their class teacher upon arrival
- Phones will be stored securely in the school office throughout the day

- At the end of the school day, pupils will collect their phone from their class teacher
- **Phones must remain switched off until the pupil has left the school site**

This approach ensures that Kingsway Junior School operates as a mobile phone-free environment in line with DfE expectations, while recognising the safety needs of some families.

3.3 Prohibited Use
Mobile phones must not be used:
- At any time during the school day (including break times and lunch times)
- During school trips, visits, or other off-site activities
- At school discos, after-school clubs, or other school events
- To take photographs or videos on school premises
- To access social media, messaging apps, or gaming platforms while on school property

3.4 Medical Exemptions
We recognise that some pupils may need to use a mobile phone or smart device to manage their medical condition (for example, a pupil with diabetes who uses their phone to monitor their blood sugar levels).
Where a pupil has a medical need that requires access to a mobile phone or smart device:
- Parents/carers should submit a written request to the headteacher, including supporting evidence from a healthcare professional
- The request will be reviewed by the headteacher in consultation with the SENCO
- If approved, the arrangements will be documented in the pupil's individual healthcare plan
- The pupil will be permitted to keep their phone on their person and use it as needed for medical monitoring purposes only
- The phone or device should only be used for medical purposes during the school day
- All staff will be made aware of pupils with medical exemptions to ensure appropriate support
- This exemption will be reviewed annually or when the pupil's medical needs change

Medical exemptions apply to all year groups and are not restricted to Years 5 and 6.
The school accepts no liability for loss or damage to devices brought to school under a medical exemption.

4. Smartwatches and Other Smart Devices
Smartwatches and other smart devices with communication, internet, camera, or recording capabilities are not permitted at school.
This includes devices that can:
- Make or receive calls, texts, or messages
- Access the internet or social media
- Take photographs or videos
- Use location tracking or sharing features

Standard analogue watches (non-smart) are permitted.
If a pupil brings a smartwatch or prohibited smart device to school:

- It will be confiscated immediately
- Stored securely in the school office
- Returned only to a parent/carer at the end of the school day
- Persistent breaches will be addressed through the school's behaviour policy

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Pupil Responsibility

Pupils who bring mobile phones to school:

- Remain responsible for their own device at all times
- Bear responsibility for any loss or damage to their phone
- Must comply with all rules set out in this policy

The school accepts no liability for lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones or other devices.

5.2 Parent/Carer Responsibility

Parents and carers who give permission for their child to bring a mobile phone must:

- Ensure their child understands and follows the school rules
- Accept that phones are brought to school entirely at their own risk
- Collect the phone from the school office if it has been confiscated
- Ensure their child does not wear a smartwatch to school

6. Consequences for Non-Compliance

6.1 Unauthorised Use or Possession

If a pupil:

- Uses a mobile phone on school premises
- Brings a phone to school without permission
- Fails to hand their phone to their class teacher
- Wears a smartwatch or brings another prohibited smart device

The device will be confiscated immediately and:

- Stored securely in the school office
- Returned only to a parent/carer at the end of the school day
- Persistent breaches will result in the privilege of bringing a mobile phone being permanently withdrawn

6.2 Inappropriate Content or Use

If a member of staff has reasonable suspicion that a mobile phone or smart device:

- Contains inappropriate, harmful, or illegal material
- Has been used for cyberbullying, harassment, or sharing inappropriate content
- Has been used in a way that breaches safeguarding expectations

The pupil will be required to hand the device to a senior member of staff immediately. Parents will be contacted and invited to a meeting to discuss the matter. **Any safeguarding concerns will be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).**

In line with our Behaviour Policy, any online behaviour (via mobile phones, smartwatches, or other devices) that causes harm or distress—including cyberbullying, sharing inappropriate content, or online harassment via social media, messaging apps, or gaming platforms—will be addressed using the school's anti-social behaviour framework.

7. Safeguarding and Online Safety
This policy supports our commitment to keeping children safe online, as outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and in line with **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026**.
Particular concerns include:

- **Camera and video functions** that could make children vulnerable
- **Location tagging and 'places' features** that could compromise pupil safety
- **Access to social media and messaging apps** that may expose pupils to harmful content, grooming, or exploitation
- **Making or sharing of nudes or semi-nudes**, including digitally altered or AI-generated images (deepfakes), which require an immediate safeguarding response

Staff will remain vigilant to these risks and will escalate any concerns to the DSL without delay.

8. School Trips and Off-Site Activities
Mobile phones and smartwatches are **not permitted** on school trips, visits, or other off-site activities. The school will provide appropriate supervision and emergency contact arrangements.

9. Emergency Contact
If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school office on **01923 672 583.** Staff will ensure messages are passed on promptly.
If a pupil needs to contact their parent/carer in an emergency, they should speak to a member of staff who will facilitate contact via the school office.

10. Links to Other Policies
This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy

11. Review
This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing board, or sooner if required by changes to statutory guidance.

Appendix A: Mobile Phone Permission Form
[See next page]

Kingsway Junior School
Mobile Phone Permission Form – Years 5 and 6 Only

Pupil name: _____

Year/Class: _____

Please outline why your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school:

_____

_____

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Please read the following rules with your child:
These rules have been drawn up in line with DfE guidance to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all pupils and staff in school.

- Mobile phones must be **switched off** as soon as pupils enter the school premises
- Phones must be handed to the class teacher at the beginning of the day
- Phones will be stored securely in the school office
- Phones must **remain switched off** until the pupil has left the school site
- **Smartwatches and other smart devices are not permitted at school**
- Pupils remain responsible for their own phone and any loss or damage
- Mobile phones are **not permitted** on school trips or off-site activities
- Pupils who break these rules will have their phone confiscated and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office
- Persistent breaches will result in the privilege being withdrawn
- If a phone contains inappropriate material or is used inappropriately, parents will be invited to discuss the matter and safeguarding procedures may be followed
- **Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the parent and child's own risk**

_____

I have read and understood the rules and agree to abide by these conditions.

Signed (parent/carer): _____ **Date:** _____

Signed (pupil): _____ **Date:** _____

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Please return this completed form to the school office.