



SHENFIELD ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Smartphone Free Policy

Ratified: November 2025

Reviewed: November 2027

Effective From: September 2026

Mission Statement:

Unlock every child's potential as a unique child of God

Our aim is to ensure that every child's unique strengths are celebrated and strengthened alongside gaining an excellent academic, social, emotional and physical education.

1. Policy Rationale

At, Shenfield St Mary's we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all pupils. Increasingly, the use of smartphones among young people is having a detrimental impact on mental health, sleep, attention, and overall development. Research and experience have identified the following concerns associated with smartphone use in school-aged children:

- Increased rates of anxiety and depression
- Sleep disruption and reduced attention span
- Risk of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful or inappropriate content
- Patterns of use consistent with behavioural addiction
- Reduced engagement with learning and important life skills

Considering these concerns, and in line with our commitment to creating a safe and focused learning environment, the following policy outlines the permitted use of mobile phones and portable devices on school premises.

2. General Guidelines

Reception – Year 5 (Autumn and Spring Term)

- **Mobile phones and portable devices are not permitted** on school premises under any circumstances.

Year 6 and Year 5 in the Summer Term (Independent Travellers)

Parents who wish for their child to bring a mobile phone for safety reasons (e.g., walking to and from school independently) must comply with the following:

Permitted Phone Models



Only the following basic mobile phone models are permitted:

- Nokia 105
- Samsung E1200
- Alcatel 10.16G
- Or another similar non-smartphone device

Smartphones are not allowed under any circumstances. Any device that is a smart phone will be considered a **prohibited phone**. If parents are unsure of phones permitted, please speak to the office and we will confirm if it is an approved phone or not.

Medical Exceptions

Where a mobile device is necessary for managing a diagnosed medical condition, exemptions to this policy may be granted. In such cases, the phone must:

- Be securely configured to restrict access to applications, internet browsers, and social media
- Be approved by the school's leadership team

3. Conditions for Approved Phone Use

- Phones must be **clearly labelled** with the student's name
- Phones must be **switched off** and **handed in to the class 'phone box'** immediately upon arrival
- Phones may only be used **after school** and **away from school entrances**
- The phone remains the **sole responsibility of the student**, and the school cannot accept liability for loss, theft, or damage

4. Confiscation and Searches

- Staff may conduct searches for mobile phones in accordance with **Department for Education (DfE) guidance** on searching and screening
- Any mobile phone discovered during a search, or used in breach of this policy, will be **confiscated immediately**

Procedure for Confiscated Phones

- Approved phones will be securely stored at the school office and returned only to a parent or guardian
- Prohibited phones will be securely stored at the school office and returned only to a parent or guardian during a meeting with the Head of School who will outline the school policy
- Parents will be notified in all instances of phone confiscation



5. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be updated to reflect emerging risks, technological changes, and school community feedback.