



Thurlstone Primary School

Mobile Technology Policy

Review Date: Nov 2026

Approved by: Governors

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile technology—such as mobile phones, tablets, smartwatches, and other connected devices—is used responsibly and safely within the school environment. The policy aims to:

- Protect pupils from inappropriate or unsafe use of technology.
- Support a focused, distraction-free learning environment.
- Promote digital citizenship and respect for others.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils, staff, parents/carers, and visitors using mobile technology on school grounds or during school-related activities (e.g., trips, after-school events).

General Principles

- The school recognises that some pupils may need mobile devices for safety reasons when travelling to and from school.
- During the school day, the use of personal mobile devices is **restricted** to protect the wellbeing, privacy, and learning of all pupils.

Pupil Use of Mobile Devices

Bringing Devices to School

- Pupils are **not encouraged** to bring mobile phones or smart devices to school.
- If a parent/carer believes it is necessary for their child to bring a phone (e.g., for safety reasons when walking home), they must provide **written consent** to the school.
- The device must be **switched off and handed in** to the head teacher at the start of the school day and collected at home time.

Use During the School Day

- Pupils may **not use mobile devices** during lessons, breaks, or lunchtimes.
- Any unauthorised use will result in confiscation until the end of the day.
- Repeated breaches may result in the loss of the privilege to bring a device to school.

Photography, Audio, and Video

- Pupils must **never** use mobile devices to take photos, record videos, or share media on school premises without permission.
- Sharing or posting images of staff or pupils online is strictly prohibited.

Staff Use of Mobile Devices

- Staff may carry mobile phones for emergency or educational purposes but must ensure personal use does not interfere with teaching duties.
- Staff should model responsible use and follow safeguarding guidelines when using technology with pupils.
- Personal phones should **not be used to photograph or contact pupils or parents** unless authorised for school business.

Parent and Visitor Use

- Parents and visitors should not use mobile phones in classrooms, assemblies, or playgrounds where pupils are present, unless specifically permitted.
- Photos or videos of school events should **only** be taken with the school's permission and must not be shared on social media without consent.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

- All use of mobile technology must comply with the school's **Safeguarding and Online Safety Policies**.
- Any concerns about misuse, cyberbullying, or inappropriate content must be reported immediately to a member of staff or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Sanctions

Misuse of mobile devices will result in:

1. **First incident:** Verbal warning and confiscation until end of the day.
2. **Second incident:** Parent/carer informed; device held by school for collection.
3. **Repeated or serious misuse:** Further disciplinary action in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and in line with current safeguarding and technological guidance.