



Mobile Phone Policy 2026

At Sherborne St John C of E Primary School, our policies are designed to ensure that every child can **achieve** their full potential, **enjoy** their learning, and be **inspired** by their experiences. This policy is underpinned by our core Christian values of **Trust, Truth and Forgiveness**, which enable us to build a secure, loving and thriving environment for our entire school community.

In line with our vision, this policy seeks to:

- **Foster Trust:** Building strong relationships with one another and exploring our relationship with God.
- **Uphold Truth:** Inspiring integrity and the courage to stand up for what is right.
- **Practice Forgiveness:** Creating an environment of patience and understanding where we take responsibility for our choices and move forward together when things go wrong.

Rooted in the Christian faith and the teachings of the Bible, our school remains a caring community where every individual is safe in the knowledge that they are loved and valued by God.

Sherborne St John School is a proud signatory of the Smartphone Free Childhood Charter. We are committed to protecting our pupils' well-being, fostering deep concentration, and encouraging authentic social interaction.

To align with the Charter's mission to delay the onset of smartphone use, we have established the following policy. We appreciate your support in maintaining a focused and safe environment for all our children.

Core Principles

While we understand that some parents may wish their child to carry a device for safety reasons when traveling independently, Sherborne St John School strongly discourages pupils from bringing any mobile device to school.

In line with the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, we advocate for "basic" phones (calls and texts only) if a device is deemed necessary for the walk home.

Guidelines for Use

- **Eligibility:** Permission to bring a mobile phone is restricted to **Year 5 and Year 6 pupils only**, specifically those who walk to or from school without adult supervision or are moving between households.
- **Authorisation:** Only pupils with a signed parental permission slip on file are permitted to bring a device onto the school site.
- **School Hours:** This policy applies during all school hours on the school premises. Mobile phones are **strictly prohibited** on all school day trips and overnight residential trips.



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- **Communication:** If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they must call the **School Office**. Pupils are not permitted to use their own devices to contact home during school hours.

Procedures and Security

1. **Arrival:** Upon entering the school building, phones must be **switched off** immediately.
2. **Storage:** Pupils must hand their phones to the office upon entry to school. Devices will be kept in a secure, locked location until the end of the day.
3. **Collection:** Phones will be returned at dismissal. They must remain switched off until the pupil has left the school grounds.
4. **Liability:** The school cannot be held responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of any mobile phone brought onto the premises.

Misuse and Sanctions

We take the digital safety of our community seriously. The following rules apply to ensure a respectful environment:

- **Confiscation:** Any phone seen or heard on the school premises outside of the agreed drop-off/pick-up procedure will be confiscated. In these instances, the device must be collected by a parent or guardian from the school office; it will not be returned directly to the pupil.
- **Prohibited Content:** Using a mobile phone to take photographs or record video of any member of the school community is a serious breach of school discipline.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Any misuse of a device will result in formal disciplinary action, including a mandatory meeting with parents and the potential permanent withdrawal of the privilege to bring a phone to school.

Parental Agreement

By signing the permission slip, you acknowledge that you have read this policy and agree to support Sherborne St John School's commitment to a **Smartphone Free Childhood**.

Please complete and return the attached permission slip to the School Office if you wish to request this privilege for your Year 5 or Year 6 child.



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MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

I/we give permission for our child (name) to bring their mobile phone into school. My child requires their mobile phone in school because
.....
.....
.....

We have read the policy and understand its implications.

Signed

Date.....

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

