Ladygrove Primary School and Nursery

Mobile Phones in School
A policy for Children

Written March 2026

Due for review March 2027

Policy- Document Status			
Date of Policy Creation	**March 2024**	**Named Responsibility**	Kirsty Stewart
Date of review completion	**March 2026**	**Named Responsibility**	Kirsty Stewart
Inception of new Policy	**March 2026**	**Named Responsibility**	Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body		**January 2026**	

This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Mobile phone and smart watch Policy
- Mobile phones in school – Guidance February 2024 Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK

Rationale (taken from DFE – Mobile Phones in Schools – February 2024)

Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.5 Schools can help children and young people develop these habits, which will in turn help them thrive outside of school. During recent stakeholder engagement, headteachers and leaders reported that after removing mobile phones from the school day, the whole culture of the school changes for the better. The environment becomes safer, protecting pupils not only from the short-term distraction of a notification but also the background noise of their lives outside school. Without their mobile phone at school, pupils have the headspace and calm to focus on their lessons.

Pupil Policy

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone or Smart Watch or other types of wearable technology to school if they walk to and from school without adult supervision, Ladygrove Primary School and Nursery discourages pupils bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential issues raised above. The same applies to iPads or other tablets.

We recognise that many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks. This access may mean some children may choose to use their mobile device inappropriately while at our setting; for example or may use it to access harmful content on the internet.

As such, we require parents to fill in a permission slip to allow children to bring mobile phones to school (for the purposes of safety whilst travelling to and from school). Children's mobile phones are collected by a member of classroom staff and stored securely in the office during the school day in locked boxes allocated for each class. The classroom staff have access to the key. Children are only permitted to switch on their phones at the school gate. When a child needs to bring a phone into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent. Devices should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own. Devices should be turned off before handing in. Parents are advised that Ladygrove Primary School and Nursery accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones and other smart devices which are brought into school or school grounds.

The school has the right to confiscate or search a mobile phone. In the unlikely event of needing to do this, we will endeavour to contact a parent or carer. As part of this agreement, your child should agree to unlock the phone if required by a member of staff.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a permission slip be returned the next day.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone, tablet or smart watch of either other pupils or teachers, the device will be confiscated, and this will be regarded as a serious offence.

If images of other pupils or teacher have been taken, the device will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a senior teacher. (Please see more guidance on sexting in our child protection policy).

Should a pupil be found to be using their phone or devices inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege. *We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages and images as they can often be used to bully pupils. Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.*

Smart watches connected to the internet and/or with a camera are not to be worn by pupils in school.

Appendix 1:

Mobile Phone, Devices and Smart Watch Policy Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer

In accordance with our Mobile phone, Devices and Smart Watches policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone or Smart Watch to school on a regular basis, please could you sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to bring their device to the school office first thing in the morning before they go their classroom.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone, tablet or Smart Watch
- Your child's phone should be appropriately marked so that they can recognise it
- Should your child be found using their phone, device or smart watch inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring them into school.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Head teacher

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PARENTAL CONSENT

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

Please name the type of
device……

We have read the policy and understand its implications

Signed ……

Name (please use capitals) ……

Date……

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE
LADYGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY OFFICE.
THANK YOU.