ST LUKE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Summer 2026

Purpose

At St Luke's School, Sway, we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing and distraction-free environment where children can learn, play and build positive relationships. As a Smartphone Free Childhood School, we support the principles of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and encourage children to enjoy their primary school years without the pressures and distractions associated with smartphones and social media. This policy sets out our expectations regarding mobile phones and smart devices.

Our Approach

We strongly encourage families **not to provide children with smartphones during their primary school years**. Smartphones and wearable technology - internet-enabled devices and smartwatches with communication, camera or internet functions are not required for primary education and must not be brought into school. Our feeder secondary schools have also confirmed that they are not needed for secondary education.

Basic fitness trackers that do not have communication or recording functions may be permitted at the discretion of the school.

Use During Educational Visits

Pupils will not require mobile phones during school trips, including on our Year 6 residential visit.

Communication with Parents

If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should do so via the school office. Similarly, if a child needs to contact home, school staff will support them using school telephones.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

This policy supports the school's safeguarding responsibilities by:

- Reducing opportunities for cyberbullying.
- Limiting access to social media during the school day.
- Protecting pupils' privacy.
- Reducing distractions from learning.
- Promoting healthy social interaction and play.
- Supporting children's wellbeing and positive mental health.

Breaches of the Policy

Where this policy is not followed:

1. Any device will be confiscated and stored securely.
2. Parents or carers will be contacted.
3. Repeated breaches will result in further action in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Staff and Visitors

Staff and visitors are expected to use personal mobile phones in accordance with the school's safeguarding and staff code of conduct. Mobile phones should not be used in areas where children are present except where authorised for educational or safeguarding purposes.

Working in Partnership with Families

We recognise that parents and carers make decisions about technology that are right for their own family. As a school, we aim to work in partnership with families by:

- Encouraging age-appropriate use of technology.
- Promoting healthy digital habits.
- Supporting the delay of smartphone ownership until secondary school where possible.
- Providing information and resources to help families navigate children's digital lives.

Together, we can help children enjoy a childhood rich in learning, friendships, creativity and play.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with safeguarding guidance, Department for Education expectations and the needs of our school community.