

‘Growing together in the spirit of Christ’s love’

All Hallows Catholic High School



School Mobile Phone & Smart Device Policy

Signed by:

Headteacher: Mrs A Cooper

Chair of Governors: Mrs L Kitto

Date: Autumn Term 2026

Review Date: Autumn Term 2027

Effective from September 2026

1. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the school provides a safe, focused and distraction-free learning environment. From September 2026, the school will operate as a **Smart Device-Free School**, meaning pupils will not have access to smart devices at any point during the school day. This policy supports safeguarding, behaviour, wellbeing and academic engagement.

2. Definition of Smart Devices

For the purposes of this policy, a *smart device* refers to **any internet-enabled or mobile communication device**, including:

- **Smartphones**
- **Smartwatches**
- **Tablets**
- Any device capable of messaging, recording, photographing, or accessing the internet

Basic mobile phones (“brick phones”) are included within this policy unless explicitly approved for travel purposes.

3. Whole-School Position

The school’s position is clear:

Pupils should not bring smart devices onto the school site unless permission has been granted under exceptional circumstances.

Smart devices have never been permitted for use during the school day. This policy strengthens expectations, clarifies procedures and introduces firmer sanctions to ensure that smart devices are genuinely absent from pupils’ school experience.

Separate guidance will be provided for after school activities and school visits

4. Exceptional Circumstances

Parents may apply for permission for their child to bring a device to school **only** where there is a:

- **Safeguarding need** relating to travel
- **Medical requirement** (e.g. diabetes monitoring)
- **SEND need** where a device supports communication or regulation
- **Travel requirement** involving long or complex journeys
- **Family circumstance** requiring immediate contact

Exceptional circumstances are determined **case by case**. The school’s decision is final, subject to the complaints procedure.

5. Application Process for Approved Devices

Permission will only be granted where:

- A parent or carer submits a written request

- The parent and pupil sign the **Mobile Device Code of Conduct**
- The school is satisfied that the pupil understands and will comply with all expectations

Without this approval, pupils **must not** bring a device onto the school site.

The school will make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the **Equality Act 2010**.

6. Expectations for Approved Devices

Where permission is granted, the device is for **travel only**.

Upon arrival at school:

- The device must be **switched off** before entering the site
- It must be placed **immediately into the pupil's locker** or designated secure location
- It must **not** be kept on the pupil's person
- It must **not** be kept in a school bag
- It must **not** be accessed or used at any time during the school day
- Permission may be reviewed or withdrawn at any time

Devices may only be switched on once pupils have **left the school site**.

7. Prohibited Actions

The following are strictly prohibited:

- **Bringing a device without permission**
- **Carrying a device during the school day**
- **Keeping a device in a school bag**
- **Accessing or using a device**
- **Attempting to conceal a device**
- **Refusing a reasonable request** related to enforcement

8. Mobile Phone Use Beyond the School Premises.

Day Educational Visits

Pupils are permitted to bring mobile devices on single-day educational visits strictly for the purposes of emergency contact and facilitating digital payments. Devices must remain switched off and stored securely in bags for the duration of the visit. Pupils are explicitly prohibited from using devices to contact parents directly during the trip. Unless explicitly allowed by the Designated Trip Leader, all necessary communication with parents or carers must be made through the Designated Trip Leader.

Residential Trips (UK)

On overnight UK residential trips, pupils' mobile devices must remain switched off and will be stored overnight securely by the Designated Trip Leader. Pupils will be granted access to their devices only during specific, designated times outlined by the Trip Leader (e.g., a designated evening window for contacting home). Outside of these specified windows, devices must be turned off.

International Trips / Visits Abroad

Mobile phone regulations for international travel will remain in accordance with existing school protocols. Detailed expectations regarding usage, roaming management, and connectivity will be communicated to parents and pupils during the specific pre-trip briefing.

After-School Clubs and Cross-Curricular

The school enforces a strict "no usage inside the school gates" rule that extends to all after-school provisions. For the entire duration of any after-school club, fixture, or activity, pupils must ensure their mobile phones are switched off and placed inside their bags. Devices may only be turned on once the pupil has exited the school gates.

Trip-Specific Planning and Implementation

To ensure clear communication, individual trip itineraries and consent forms will explicitly outline the specific mobile phone plan for that unique visit. This includes clarifying variations based on whether the device is required for emergency contact or payment purposes.

9. Monitoring and Compliance

To support the implementation of this policy, the school may use:

- **Electronic detection wands**
- Other reasonable and proportionate screening measures

Any searches will follow statutory guidance on **searching, screening and confiscation** and will be carried out by authorised staff.

These measures ensure fairness, consistency and a culture of compliance.

10. Sanctions for Breaches

Sanctions will be reasonable, proportionate and in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Possible sanctions include:

- **Immediate confiscation**
- **Parent/carer collection** of the device
- **After-school detention or seclusion**
- **Escalating behaviour sanctions** for repeated breaches
- **Withdrawal of permission** to bring a device
- **Further disciplinary action** for deliberate or repeated non-compliance

Consistency is essential. All pupils should expect that breaches will have meaningful consequences.

11. Device Liability

The school accepts **no responsibility** for loss, theft or damage to any device brought onto the school site. Devices are brought at the pupil's own risk.

12. Rationale for a Smart Device-Free School

Evidence shows that removing smart devices from the school day improves:

- **Attention and concentration**
- **Academic engagement and outcomes**
- **Social interaction and friendships**

- **Behaviour around school**
- **Mental health and wellbeing**
- **Online safety and safeguarding**

This policy supports pupils to learn, socialise and develop without the distractions and pressures associated with smart devices.

13. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**
- **Equality Policy**
- **Mobile Device Code of Conduct**

14. Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team, with input from governors, staff, pupils and parents.