

Jennett's Park CE Primary Mobile Tech Policy



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Date of Next review	April 2029
Published	Yes
Website Status	Yes

Jennett's Park CE Primary School English

School Background:

Jennett's Park CE Primary School is openly inclusive Christian school, welcoming all children from the whole community to a caring and happy environment where they can achieve to the very best of their abilities. At Jennett's Park CE we believe that all children are unique and we encourage them to develop their strengths and creativity as individuals. We emphasise the development of the whole-learner physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically. We wish for children to flourish and achieve under God's Love.

We promise as a staff and community to try to serve the common good with our work as part of the Church of England.

At Jennett's Park CE Primary School, our Christian values guide us in nurturing a community where every child is valued as unique and capable. We are committed to building **strong foundations in communication and language**, recognising these skills as essential for successful learning across the curriculum.

Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	To help grow resourceful , resilient and reflective children who are equipped with the skills , knowledge and tenacity empower themselves, their learning throughout their lives.
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	To inspire and enrich lives beyond current opportunities and experiences in order to open minds to the potential their future holds
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	To be a multi-cultural, inclusive community of individuals loved by God who feel valued and involved where we create qualities of character to enable people to flourish.
Educating for Dignity and Respect	That children might know how much that they are loved and valued by so that they might show dignity and respect for themselves and others by carefully and safely thinking through their actions.

1) At-a-glance summary (for parents, pupils, staff)

- **Phone-free by default:** The school is a **mobile-phone-free environment throughout the school day**, including **lessons, transitions, break and lunch**. Smart devices with phone-like functions (messaging, notifications, camera, audio/video recording) are treated as mobile phones.
- Parents on site may use phones to ring in emergency

- **On-site rule:** Pupils **must not bring** mobile phones or connected smart devices onto the site **unless a recorded reasonable adjustment has been agreed** (e.g., SEND, medical, or safeguarding).
- Children walking home may collect phones to call and keep safe but should turn on after leaving site.
- **No BYOD for phones:** BYOD does **not** include mobile phones.
- **Consistency matters:** Ofsted will check our phone policy, how we communicate it, how consistently it's applied, and its impact on behaviour, learning and wellbeing **on every inspection from 1 April**.
- **Staff & visitors model expectations:** Personal devices are **not used in sight of pupils**; any permitted use is out of pupil view, in designated staff/visitor areas.
- **Search, confiscation, and data on devices** follow DfE guidance and legal powers (Education and Inspections Act 2006; DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation).
- **EYFS:** Additional safeguards apply, including a strict ban on personal device photography; only school devices are used for images with consent. (See §12.)
- **Communication & support:** We will brief annually and after holidays, update signage, and share parent resources from **SWGfL, UK Safer Internet Centre, and NSPCC/NetAware**.

2) Purpose and scope

This policy sets out how Jennett's Park C of E Primary implements a **phone-free school day by default**, reducing distraction, supporting behaviour and safeguarding, and promoting pupil wellbeing, consistent with DfE guidance. It applies to **pupils, staff, governors, contractors, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors** on school premises and on school activities off-site. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

This policy should be read alongside our **Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy, Online Safety/ICT Acceptable Use, Data Protection/Use of Images, and Staff Code of Conduct**, and alongside DfE guidance on behaviour and KCSIE referenced from the DfE page. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

3) Definitions

- **Mobile phone:** Any device capable of telephony, messaging, or cellular data (e.g., smartphones).
- **Smart device / wearable:** Any device with phone-like functionality (e.g., messaging/notifications, camera, microphone, audio/video recording). These are treated as mobile phones under this policy. [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **The school day:** From arrival on site to departure from site, including lessons, transitions, break and lunch. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

4) Policy statement

1. **Default prohibition:** The school is a **mobile-phone-free environment by default**. Any deviation is **by exception only** and must be authorised and recorded by SLT. [\[gov.uk\]](#)
2. **Times and places covered:** The prohibition applies **throughout the school day**, in all indoor and outdoor spaces, and during any on-site or off-site school activity within the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](#)
3. **BYOD exclusion:** Where BYOD exists for learning (e.g., laptops/tablets), **mobile phones are not part of BYOD**. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

5) Pupil expectations and procedures

- **Bringing devices:** Pupils **must not bring** mobile phones or connected smart devices onto site. If exceptional circumstances require it (e.g., safeguarding need, medical reason, SEND), parents must request an **individual reasonable adjustment** (see §9). [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **Exceptional permission protocol:**
 - Device must be **switched off** before entering the site (not on silent/airplane).
 - On arrival, the pupil **hands the device in** at the designated collection point; it is stored securely and returned at the end of the day.
 - Devices must **not** be kept in bags/pockets or accessed during the school day.
- **Breaches:** Any device seen or heard will be **confiscated** and held until collected by a parent/carer. Repeated breaches will follow the Behaviour Policy. (See §11 for search/confiscation powers.) [\[gov.uk\]](#)

6) Staff expectations

- Staff **model** phone-free expectations. Personal use is **out of sight of pupils**, in staff areas and **never** during contact time or duties.
- Personal devices **must not** be used to **photograph, film, store or transfer** pupil data.
- Wearables with messaging/notifications should be **silenced**; no interaction in view of pupils.
- For school business (e.g., trips, emergency contact), staff use **school-issued devices** wherever possible and follow data protection and safeguarding protocols

7) Parents, carers, visitors and contractors

- The site is **phone-free by default**. Please **refrain from using** mobile devices on site or use only in **designated external areas** when clearly signposted or where a member of staff permits use at events. [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **Photography/recording:** Only where **explicitly permitted** at events, and **only your own child**. No filming/photography in toilets, changing rooms, or other sensitive areas. Images of other pupils must **not** be shared online.
- Visitors must follow staff instructions regarding device use; breaches may result in being asked to leave.
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8) Events, images and data protection

- We comply with **UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018** and obtain consent for school use of images. Personal devices **must not** be used by staff to capture pupil images; only **school devices** may be used, with secure storage and retention in line with policy.
- Any permitted parental photography at events is for **private, personal use only** and must respect the privacy of other children and families.
- [Photographs and Video](#)
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- Photographs and videos of pupils and staff are classed as personal data under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. Therefore, using such photographs for school publicity purposes requires the consent of either the individual concerned or in the case of pupils, their legal guardians.
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- However, parents/carers are not required to comply with the terms of the Data Protection Act when taking photographs or video of *their* children for *their* own personal use at an organised event.
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- It is lawful and is allowed, however the school ensures that every parent completes a 'Photograph Parental Consent Form' making them aware that the use of the photographs/video must be strictly for personal use and should not be shared online (i.e. through any social media network), sold nor distributed via any other means.
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- Mobile Technology Use at School Events
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- The school reserves the right to decide when to allow parents/carers to take photographs/video at school events. This will be based on consent provided by parents/carers and safeguarding measures. The school also reserves the right to withdraw the consent for parents/carers to take photographs/video on health and safety grounds (i.e. due to excessive use of flashlights or bulky and noisy equipment which could also be distracting for pupils or staff).
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- Members of staff have the authority to question anyone they do not recognise (while maintaining their own safety) should they be observed using photographic/videoing equipment or if it is being used covertly either inside the school building or focussed on the school grounds.
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- Parents/carers will be informed that they are only permitted to make videos/take photographs in designated areas of the school during school events and must only photograph their own child. They will be told to not post pictures of any children other than their own on social media. It is not permitted to take photographs in sensitive areas such as toilets or changing rooms at any time.
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- The school will publish specific information concerning photographic/videoing equipment prominently either in signs within the area of the event / clear in the event programme or making an announcement prior to the start of the event.

Pupils:

Pupils may not use smart watches to receive calls throughout the day.

Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones in school or on trips.

If a parent wishes for his/her child to bring a mobile phone to school so that they are able to make contact after school:

- The phone must be switched off as soon as the child enters the school site, handed and signed in, and sent to the school office first thing in the morning and collected from the office at home time. The phone is left at the owner's own risk.
- Phones must remain in school bags until handed in to a member of staff.
- If rules are not followed the phone will be confiscated and must be collected by the parent.

Parents & other visitors

- Parents and Visitors attending Collective Worship and Productions must not make or receive calls or text messages within the school building.

9) Reasonable adjustments (SEND/medical/safeguarding)

The school may agree **individual, time-limited exceptions** where a device is justified in the school day by SEND, medical, or specific safeguarding needs. Decisions are:

- made by SLT in consultation with the **DSL/SENDCo**,
- **recorded** (risk assessment/plan),
- **reviewed** regularly, and
- set out **how** the device will be managed (e.g., hand-in, monitoring, times/places).

This approach reflects DfE expectations to consider individual needs while maintaining a phone-free default. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

10) Implementation model

To ensure consistency and minimise risk, the school operates the following system:

- **Default:** No pupil devices on site.
- **Where an exception is granted: Hand-in on arrival → secure storage → return at end of day.**
This approach is one of the models highlighted in sector briefings on implementing a phone-free environment.

11) Sanctions, searching, screening and confiscation

- **Confiscation:** Staff may confiscate devices in line with the Behaviour Policy and **Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s.94)**. [\[legislation.gov.uk\]](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- **Searching & screening:** The school follows DfE **“Searching, screening and confiscation”** guidance. Headteacher/authorised staff may search a pupil or their possessions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect possession of prohibited or banned items; schools also have powers regarding **electronic devices**, including examining data where appropriate and permitted. Records are kept and parents informed as appropriate.
- **Police involvement & safeguarding:** Where content suggests illegal activity or significant harm, we will inform the **DSL** and, where necessary, the police and other agencies, in line with safeguarding procedures

12) Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – additional safeguards

- **No personal devices** are to be used for any EYFS recording.
- **No device use** (by any adult or child) during intimate care.
- School-owned cameras/tablets are used for curriculum-related images with **prior consent**; devices are **password-protected** and stored securely.

- Visitors are **prohibited** from using mobile phones within EYFS areas except where staff provide explicit permission (e.g., a performance) and only in designated zones.

(These EYFS protections sit alongside, and do not weaken, the whole-school phone-free default.)

13) Staff training, communication and signage

- **Staff:** Annual briefing (and on induction) on this policy and consistent enforcement.
- **Parents & pupils:** Annual reminders (start of year/term) and at key transition points; rationale, procedures and consequences communicated clearly (letters, website, meetings). The DfE emphasises clarity of communication and consistent implementation.
- **Signage:** Clear on-site signage that the school is a **phone-free environment**.

14) Monitoring and evaluation

SLT will monitor:

- behaviour incidents linked to devices,
- lesson disruption/distraction indicators,
- wellbeing referrals potentially linked to online harms, and
- **consistency of staff enforcement.**

Findings inform termly **Behaviour & Safeguarding** reviews and are used to evidence **impact** in line with Ofsted expectations.

15) Linked education and family support

We reinforce the policy through education for pupils and support for families, signposting to:

- **SWGfL 360safe & policy templates** (for best-practice policy framing and AUPs), [360safe.org.uk]
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** (classroom resources, staff training, filtering/monitoring guidance), [saferinternet.org.uk]
- **NSPCC/NetAware** (parental controls, app guidance, online wellbeing). [nspcc.org.uk]

16) Roles and responsibilities

- **Governing Body:** Approves policy; assures alignment with behaviour and safeguarding.
- **Headteacher/SLT:** Ensures implementation, training, reasonable adjustments, and consistency.
- **DSL/SENDCo:** Advises on adjustments, assesses risk, oversees safeguarding, records incidents.
- **All staff/volunteers:** Enforce consistently; model expectations; report concerns.

- **Parents/carers:** Support the policy; avoid contacting pupils via personal devices during the day.
- **Pupils:** Follow expectations; hand in any authorised device on arrival.

17) Equality, diversity and inclusion

The school considers the **disproportionate impact** that device rules and enforcement may have on pupils with protected characteristics or additional vulnerabilities. Reasonable adjustments are considered and recorded in line with equality duties and DfE guidance expectations. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

18) Data protection and privacy

Any processing of personal data (e.g., confiscated device handling, incident records) follows **UK GDPR** and internal data protection policies. Access to data on electronic devices during a search is only as permitted by DfE guidance and where **lawful, necessary and proportionate**. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

19) Complaints

Concerns about application of this policy are addressed through the school's **Complaints Procedure**. (Note: national updates have recently reiterated expectations on complaints handling.)

20) Related legislation and guidance

- **DfE:** *Mobile phones in schools* (updated **19 January 2026**) – phone-free by default; applies across the whole school day; includes smart devices; BYOD must not include phones. [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **Ofsted blog (23 January 2026):** inspections from **1 April** will review phone policies, communication, consistency and impact. [\[educationi...log.gov.uk\]](#)
- **DfE:** *Searching, screening and confiscation* (most recently updated 19 July 2023). [\[gov.uk\]](#)
- **Education and Inspections Act 2006**, incl. **s.94** (confiscation). [\[legislation.gov.uk\]](#)
- Sector briefings on implementation options and staff modelling expectations. [\[brownejacobson.com\]](#), [\[schoolsweek.co.uk\]](#)

21) Appendices

A. Pupil/Parent summary for handbook/website

- Our school is **phone-free by default** (no use at any time in the school day). [\[gov.uk\]](#)

- Do **not** bring phones/smart devices to school. If an exception is agreed (SEND/medical/safeguarding), your child will **hand it in on arrival** and collect it at home time.
- If a device is seen or heard, it will be **confiscated** and a parent must collect. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)
- We teach responsible online behaviour and signpost families to **NSPCC/NetAware** and **UK Safer Internet Centre** resources. [\[nspcc.org.uk\]](https://www.nspcc.org.uk), [\[saferinternet.org.uk\]](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

B. Visitor notice (for reception/signage)

This is a phone-free school.

Please **switch off** or **refrain from using** mobile phones and smart devices while on site.

Photography/recording is **not permitted** unless staff explicitly say otherwise, and then **only your own child**.

Thank you for supporting a calm, safe environment.

C. Reasonable Adjustment Request (summary of process)

- Parent makes written request → SLT/DSL/SENDCo review → risk assessment → written agreement (conditions, duration, storage/hand-in) → scheduled review.

D. Confiscation & search quick-reference (staff)

- Confiscate for breaches; store securely; log incident; return to parent/carer.
- Search only by authorised staff under **DfE guidance**; consider safeguarding, proportionality, witness, and record-keeping; inform DSL and parents as appropriate. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

Version control

- **Version:** 2026.1
- **Approved by LGB on:** [Insert]
- **Next review:** [Insert – recommend within 12 months of approval]

Mobile phone policy: information slip for visitors

Use of mobile phones in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the covered walkway outside the main office in the entrance hall
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.

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Mobile Free

JENNETT'S PARK CE PRIMARY IS MOBILE FREE BY DEFAULT



Please turn off all web-enabled sources of information and cameras.

No iPod, iPad, mobile phones, mp3/4 players, or smartwatches to be used on site.

Please respect our children and staff by following this request.



