



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Introduction

At Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that prioritises focus, social interaction and child development without unnecessary digital distractions. This policy sets clear guidelines on mobile phone use for staff, parents, visitors and pupils to ensure the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all children.

Rationale

Research indicates that excessive exposure to smartphones can impact children's social skills, emotional wellbeing and concentration. Schools play a vital role in promoting healthy habits and encouraging in-person interactions.

This policy aims to:

- Support children's social development by encouraging face-to-face communication.
- Reduce screen dependency and potential exposure to inappropriate online content, both inside school and outside the school gates.
- Minimise distractions and enhance focus on learning.
- Promote a safe and respectful school environment, free from the risks associated with unsupervised phone use.

Policy Guidelines

Staff Use of Mobile Phones

- Staff members may access their mobile phones during break times when not around pupils but the school telephone number must always be given should they need to be contacted in an emergency during their working hours.
- Mobile phones must not be used in classrooms, corridors, playgrounds or any other areas when pupils are present.
- Staff are expected to set an example of responsible technology use.
- The Head Teacher or other members of staff, as agreed by the Head Teacher, may carry a phone as necessary to ensure that the school can meet their safeguarding requirements, for example, on a school trip or when supervising children outside of the school day such as wraparound care.

Parents and Visitors

- Parents and visitors are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school premises unless permission is given, for example to take photographs when attending special assemblies or performances. We always ask that these are **not** shared on any social media sites.
- Calls, messages or social media use must take place off-site.
- Contractors on the school site must not use their mobile phones for anything other than taking or making work related calls and only in an area where there are no children present.

Pupils and Mobile Devices

- From September 2025, children are not permitted to bring **smartphones** or **smartwatches** to school. A smartphone or smartwatch is defined as an internet-enabled device.
- If a pupil ever requires a basic phone (non-internet enabled device) for any reason, it must be handed in to the school office on arrival and collected at the end of the school day.
- Any unauthorised mobile devices brought to school will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent or guardian.
- If parents choose to track their child during the school day, they may use a tracking device such as a Bluetooth tracker (e.g. Apple Tag or Tile Mate).

Enforcement and Consequences

- Staff are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- Parents and visitors who fail to adhere to the policy may be asked to leave the premises.
- Pupils who bring unauthorised devices will have them confiscated and a discussion will be held with their parents.

Conclusion

By implementing this policy, Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School seeks to create a **safe, distraction-free, and socially engaging environment** for our pupils. We appreciate the support of staff, parents and visitors in maintaining a school culture that prioritises children's wellbeing and development.

For any questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.

This policy will be reviewed biennially

Policy created: July 2025