

Mobile Phone Policy 2026-27
Cobden Primary School

Initial date April 2026

Reviewed September 2026

Review due date September 2027

1. Policy Statement

The Bradgate Education Partnership (BEP) is committed to creating and sustaining mobile phone–free environments across all Trust schools, ensuring that learning, wellbeing and safeguarding remain paramount. This policy aligns with Department for Education expectations (January 2026) and Ofsted inspection requirements from April 2026, which emphasise clarity, consistency and effective enforcement of mobile phone rules.

2. Rationale and Evidence Base

Research demonstrates significant risks associated with early and excessive smartphone use, including reduced attention, increased anxiety, sleep disruption and heightened exposure to online pressures. Evidence also shows that removing phones from the school day improves behaviour, focus and social interaction. These findings underpin BEP's Trust-wide approach to creating phone-free schools.

3. Scope of Policy

This Trust-wide policy applies to all pupils across all BEP school sites during the entire school day, including arrival, lessons, breaks, transitions, clubs, and extracurricular activities unless specific written exemptions apply.

4. Definitions

• Mobile phones: Any device capable of communication, internet access or media capture.

• Smart devices: Smartwatches with cellular or messaging capabilities, wireless earbuds and similar items.

• School day: From arrival on school grounds until leaving the site, including all structured and unstructured periods.

5. Core Expectations for Pupils

• No mobile phones or smart devices may be used, seen or heard anywhere on site.

• Year 6 only- devices must be switched off and handed to the class teacher to be placed in the secure box. We discourage year 6 children from bringing a phone to school

• Children in EYFS to Year 5 must not bring a mobile phone to school unless agreed in collaboration with the headteacher and parent.

• Pupils must not send or receive calls/messages during the school day. All urgent communication must go via the school office.

6. Prohibited Devices

The following items are not permitted unless formally authorized by the headteacher: smartphones, cellular-enabled smartwatches, wireless earbuds and any device capable of bypassing phone-free expectations.

7. Permitted Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted for: documented medical needs; SEND requirements; individual safeguarding circumstances. All exceptions require a written agreement and clear usage parameters jointly established with the headteacher and families.

8. Enforcement and Consequences

• First breach: Device confiscated until the end of the school day.

• Repeated breaches: Parent/carer will be asked to collect the device from the school office

• Serious or persistent non-compliance: Sanctions aligned with the school's behaviour policy.

9. Parent and Carer Partnership

BEP operates a Parent Mobile Phone Pledge, promoting delay of smartphone access and social media access. Parents/carers agree to support the policy, avoid contacting children during the school day, model healthy device habits and remain aware of digital wellbeing risks.

10. Staff Responsibilities

Staff must model appropriate use of technology, enforce this policy consistently, undertake digital safeguarding training and report device-related concerns promptly.

11. Pupil Education and Curriculum

The Trust provides digital wellbeing and online safety education through KS2-KS4 modules, assemblies, induction and pupil voice activities, focusing on attention, sleep, persuasive technology and healthy digital habits.

12. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

Each school completes termly audits and reports to the Trust Board, evaluating compliance, incidents, wellbeing indicators and policy impact. A named Trustee oversees implementation to ensure consistency across BEP.

13. Communication Strategy

The policy will be communicated via school websites, staff briefings, parent events, pupil induction and visible signage (e.g., 'Mobile Phone Free Zone').

14. Review and Governance

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to changes in national guidance, Ofsted requirements or emerging research on digital wellbeing.

Our School is a MOBILE PHONE FREE ZONE

Learn ♥ Make Friends ♥ Be Your Best ♥

Brighter Minds Brighter Futures ♥

GOOD LEARNING HAPPENS HERE!

Why This Matters

- The Department for Education (DfE, January 2026) expects all schools to operate as mobile phone free environments.
- We support this expectation because it protects learning time, reduces distraction and keeps your mind healthy.
- Ofsted (from April 2026) now reviews how clearly schools communicate their phone policy and how consistently staff and pupils follow it.

DfE

Ofsted

What Research Shows

- Frequent smartphone use is linked to reduced attention, increased anxiety, and sleep disruption.
- Mobile phone usage can increase exposure to online pressures and bullying.
- International evidence shows that removing phones during the school day leads to improved behaviour, focus, and social interaction.

Our School Day is Phone Free

To support calm, safe and focused learning:

No pupil mobile phones or smart devices may be used, seen, or heard anywhere on site.

Devices must be handed in on arrival.

Pupils cannot respond to calls or messages during the day — please contact the school office if you need to communicate with someone.

Be Present Be Focused Be Amazing! ♥

KINDNESS

FOCUS

FRIENDSHIPS

BRIGHTER FUTURES

If you are caught using, or holding, your mobile phone, it will be confiscated until the end of the day.

Same Great People Just No Phones!

A Happier, Healthier School for Brighter Tomorrows ♥

OUR SCHOOL

Real Connections Happen Here ♥