



Elson Junior School

MOBILE PHONE POLICY 2026



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Policy written by*	Headteacher/C Paradine
*Please indicate if it is a model policy (and if so if it has been localised) and/or if the author has used AI to assist	Legal Services Model Policy, localised
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1. Policy Statement

At Elson Junior School, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and focused learning environment. In line with guidance from the Department for Education, the school operates as a mobile phone-free environment during the school day.

Mobile phones and similar smart devices can cause distraction, disrupt learning, and pose safeguarding risks. This policy sets out clear expectations for pupils, staff and parents to ensure a consistent and supportive approach.

2. Scope of the policy

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff
- Visitors to the school site

It covers mobile phones and any smart devices with similar functionality (e.g. smart watches capable of messaging, recording or internet access).

3. Key principles

We aim to ensure the school day is mobile phone-free for all pupils.

Elson Junior School believes that a mobile phone-free environment supports better focus and learning, positive behaviour, stronger relationships, improved wellbeing and robust safeguarding procedures.

4. Pupil expectations

Pupils should not bring mobile phones to school. Where a phone is brought (e.g. for safety when travelling), it must:

- Be switched off before entering the school site
- Be handed in to the school office on arrival

Phones will be securely stored and returned at the end of the day. Pupils must not use a mobile phone **anywhere** on the school site, nor use a smart device to send messages, take photos or access the internet

5. Exceptions

Exceptions may be made in limited circumstances, for example:

- Medical needs
- Specific safeguarding arrangements

All exceptions must be agreed in advance by the Headteacher, recorded and reviewed regularly.

6. Staff responsibilities

Staff will consistently enforce this policy as well as model appropriate behaviour by **not using personal phones in front of pupils**, unless necessary in the case of an emergency.

7. Parents and carers

We ask parents to support the school's mobile phone-free approach by avoiding sending children to school with mobile phones unless essential. Parents can contact the school office if they need to pass messages to their child during the day

The school will, in turn, communicate this policy clearly and be responsive to parental concerns if contact with their child is needed.

8. Storage and security

Phones must be handed in to class teachers on arrival and will be stored securely in the school office. The school will take reasonable care but cannot accept liability for loss or damage beyond what is required by law.

9. Sanctions

If a pupil breaches this policy the phone will be **confiscated immediately**. It will be returned to a parent/carer (not the pupil). Breaches will be addressed in line with the school's Behaviour Policy as well as any other relevant policies (e.g. Safeguarding, Child Protection, etc.)

10. Searching and confiscation

In line with statutory powers staff may search for and confiscate mobile phones where there is reasonable suspicion that a mobile phone is being carried. All searches will be conducted in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

11. Safeguarding and online safety

This policy supports the school's safeguarding duties by reducing risks of bullying, inappropriate content and online harm as well as supporting pupils to develop safe and responsible attitudes towards technology.

In school, pupils will be taught about online safety and responsible technology use via the school's delivery of curriculum subjects such as PSHE and Computing, as well as in day-to-day conversations about keeping safe, friendships and reporting concerns.

12. Linked Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy