



Paddox Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

2026-2027

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Introduction & Statutory Context

In accordance with the statutory guidance issued under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, this primary school operates as a mobile phone-free environment. This mandatory framework ensures that pupils remain safe, focused on their learning, and protected from social media pressures, cyberbullying, and digital distractions throughout the school day.

Core Policy & Restricted Scope

Mobile phones and associated personal smart technology (including smartwatches with messaging, cellular, or recording capabilities) are strictly prohibited on the school premises for all pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5. Pupils in these year groups are not permitted to bring mobile devices to school under any regular circumstances. The school day prohibition applies across the entire school day and covers all timetabled lessons, classroom transitions, morning break times, and lunchtime periods.

Year 6 Conditional Exception

Recognising that Year 6 pupils are preparing for secondary school transitions and may walk to or from school independently, a conditional exception is granted strictly to Year 6 pupils under the following guidelines:

- **Commuter Utility Only:** Devices may only be brought to school to ensure personal safety during the journey to and from the school site.
- **Immediate Morning Handover:** Upon arrival at school, Year 6 pupils must immediately power off their mobile phones and hand them to a member of staff.
- **Secure Lock Box Containment:** All collected Year 6 devices will be securely stored inside a dedicated classroom lock box immediately. The lock box will remain locked and inaccessible to pupils throughout the entirety of the school day.
- **Comprehensive Duration:** Devices will remain in the lock box during all instructional lessons, rainy days, morning breaks, and lunch breaks.
- **End-of-Day Return:** A member of staff will unlock the box and return the switched-off devices to pupils when they are due to go home.

Statutory Medical Exemptions (All Year Groups)

In strict compliance with statutory equality duties, verified medical exceptions are fully supported across all year groups. Pupils who require access to a continuous digital application for a lifelong medical condition such as continuous blood glucose monitoring for Type 1 Diabetes are permitted to retain a device under precise operational conditions:

- **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP):** A formal IHP must be established and signed before a device is permitted on site.
- **Restricted Medical Functionality:** The device must be configured to block all standard non-medical apps, social networks, messaging platforms, and camera functions during school hours.
- **Supervised Care:** The mobile device must only be handled or referenced by the pupil for active, vital health tracking or under the immediate supervision of a member of staff.

Enforcement, Sanctions, & Confiscation

Any device belonging to a pupil from Reception to Year 5 found on school grounds, or any Year 6 device not checked into the classroom lock box, will be confiscated.

- **Immediate Confiscation:** The unauthorised device will be immediately confiscated by staff and taken to the main administrative office for secure storage.
- **Parent-Only Collection:** Confiscated devices will not be returned directly to the pupil. A parent or carer must physically visit the school office to sign for and retrieve the device.
- **Escalated Sanctions:** Repeated breaches of this policy will result in a formal loss of mobile privileges for the individual Year 6 student.