



Mobile Phone, Watch and Wearable Technology Policy (Pupils)

At St Hilary's we recognise that mobile phones and other personal electronic devices form part of everyday life. However, the school operates a restrictive approach to safeguard pupils, support wellbeing, and maintain high standards of behaviour and learning. In line with Department for Education guidance, the school operates a mobile phone-free environment by default with no exceptions.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote safe and responsible phone use
- Protect pupils from safeguarding risks
- Prevent disruption to learning
- Reduce the risk of theft, loss or damage

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar electronic devices.

Relevant guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the Department for Education's non-statutory mobile phone and behaviour guidance. It should be read alongside Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and the Behaviour Policy. This policy forms part of the school's safeguarding and behaviour framework.

Roles and responsibilities

Staff

All staff (including teachers and support staff) are responsible for consistently enforcing this policy. Staff must act immediately where there are concerns about misuse of a device, particularly where safeguarding may be at risk. Where children are on a school activity they should not have access to their mobile phone unless in exceptional circumstances. The Deputy Head is responsible for reviewing the policy every year.

Use of mobile phones by pupils

Pupils must not have access to a mobile phone during the school day.

Where a pupil needs to bring a mobile phone to school because they travel independently or have separate living arrangements, prior written permission must be obtained by the Parent from the Deputy Head. Requests should be made by parents or carers via email to mparton@sthilarysschool.co.uk. Any approved device must be handed in on arrival and may only be collected at the end of the school day. Where permission is granted, devices must not be visible on the school site and must be switched off and handed in at the start of the day. Pupils may only collect their mobile device when they are leaving school at the end of the day (or earlier if leaving school during the day). Pupils must not use their mobile phones at any point during the school day. Permission may be withdrawn if this policy is not followed.

Use of smartwatches by pupils

Any smartwatch with communication, recording or internet capability is not permitted in school and will be treated as a mobile phone under this policy.

Devices must not:

- be capable of sending or receiving messages or calls
- be able to connect to the internet (including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or mobile data such as 3G, 4G or 5G)
- have the ability to take photographs or record audio or video

The school reserves the right to check any device where there is a reasonable safeguarding or behavioural concern. Smartwatches are high-value items and are brought to school at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft.

Use of mobile phones on school trips

Mobile phones are not permitted on any school trips, whether taking place during the normal school day, or for residential visits and trips.

Sanctions, Confiscation and Examination of Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and other prohibited electronic devices will be confiscated if they are brought onto the school site without permission or used in breach of this policy. A device will be confiscated if it is seen, heard, or reasonably suspected to be in a pupil's possession or in use during the school day. Pupils must immediately hand over a device when instructed by a member of staff. Refusal to hand over a device is treated as a serious breach of school rules. Confiscated devices will normally be returned to a parent or carer at the end of the school day.

Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing mobile phones to school must ensure that the phones are clearly labelled with their name and handed in to a member of staff in the Front Office. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school. If a phone is confiscated, it will be stored in a secure location until collection.

Monitoring and review

The school will monitor the implementation of this policy to ensure its effectiveness in supporting safeguarding, behaviour and pupil wellbeing. This policy is reviewed annually.

Reviewed: September 2026

Next review date: June 2027

Person responsible: Mr Mark Parton