

TRUST STATEMENT

Approved by Trust	30 June 2026
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Responsible Officer	Central Exec. Team
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Mobile Phones in Schools

This Statement has been adopted and approved by Oxlip Learning Partnership and is to be used by all members of the Trust.

Introduction

The Department for Education has published guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools and this states that "All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only".

Therefore, all Oxlip Learning Partnership schools will develop a mobile phone policy, as part of their wider behaviour policy. It should support the schools' commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils, eliminating all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying, as well as promoting equality of opportunity, the welfare of pupils and good relations across the whole community.

Oxlip Principles

- All schools will develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video/still images) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.
- Where our schools have students in the sixth form, the policy should reflect this period of education as one of increased independence and responsibility, without compromising the school's policy on the use of mobile phones for other pupils. This should include prohibiting the use of mobile phones by sixth-form students in front of younger pupils.
- The policy should state the consequence and sanctions for not adhering to the school's policy on mobile phones.
- It is delegated to our schools' Principals to decide how best to achieve a mobile phone free environment within their schools and to direct that within their behaviour policy.
- The school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones will be regularly communicated to all members of the community to ensure staff, parents and pupils are familiar with it, how it is implemented, the benefits of having a mobile phone free environment, the risks associated with mobile phone use and any sanctions for breaching it.
- Staff are expected to consistently model and enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.
- Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. Where staff are on a school trip or visit and a school-issued device is not available, personal mobile phones may be used for legitimate school purposes. In these circumstances, use must be appropriate, proportionate and in line with safeguarding expectations at all times.

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- Staff may be required to use personal mobile devices for specific operational purposes, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA) or agreed on-call systems. However, personal devices must not be used as a substitute for school systems or platforms (for example, Arbor or other approved recording systems), nor for recording, storing or maintaining information about pupils.
- Staff should avoid using personal devices in any way that could reasonably be perceived as recording pupils, unless explicitly authorised and in line with safeguarding policy.
- Communication to parents should regularly remind them to contact the school office if they need to contact their child during the school day.
- Schools will actively educate pupils and parents about the safeguarding risks associated with smartphones and promote approaches that discourage their routine use.
- In secondary schools, where the prevalence of smartphones is higher, schools are expected to implement systems to secure mobile phones for the duration of the school day (for example, locking pouches). Pupils should keep their phones stored securely and inaccessible throughout the day, unless directed otherwise by staff, in order to support a consistent mobile phone-free environment.
- All schools can determine how they wish to manage the use of mobile phones by pupils on residential trips or trips outside of the normal school day. However, these should ensure that pupils' educational experience is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones and should consider prohibiting or restricting their use. For trips and visits that take place within the normal school day, the expectation of a mobile phone-free environment remains in place, and pupils should not access or use mobile phones
- All schools will comply with their legal duties, such as the duty to make reasonable adjustments where necessary. There may be other exceptional circumstances where schools should consider making adaptations to their policy for specific pupils and schools should assess each case on its own merits. For example, allowing a disabled pupil access to their mobile phone during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability, may be considered a reasonable adjustment and a failure to do so may be a breach of the school's duty.