



BROADWATER
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Policy

2025-2028

Turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding (Proverbs 2:2)

Broadwater is a Christian School. We will enable children to become wise, confident, successful learners with the motivation, skills and responsibility to make a positive difference in God's world. Our vision is underpinned by the values we live by.

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22

It is this fruit that, in partnership with parents, we will instil in the children of our school.

Mobile Phone and smart Technology 2025-2028

At Broadwater CE Primary School, we recognise that mobile phones and similar devices, including smartphones, tablets and smart watches, are an important part of everyday life.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones and smart technology for pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers in relation to school
- Support the school's other policies,

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to any phone or smart phone. Where Smart Technology is referenced, this includes all wearable technology such as smart watches that have capabilities beyond the primary function of time keeping.

Rationale

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches and other wearable Smart Technology are becoming increasingly popular with primary age children. However, the ability to connect to the internet, take photos and connect to social media through these devices could result in misuse in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils and/or teachers. Additionally, they could unknowingly jeopardise the safety and security of those in the school or present safeguarding risks.

Therefore, the use of Mobile Phones, Smart Phones, Smart Watches and other wearable Smart Technology is not permitted in school. This policy explains the rules around specific devices.

Pupil Policy

Mobile phones

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone if they walk to and from school without adult supervision, there are clear rules that must be followed once children are on school site.

If a child needs to bring a phone to school, it should be turned off and stored securely in their bag before entering the school grounds. Devices should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own. Parents are advised that Broadwater accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or onto school grounds.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or the phone is found to be switched on whilst in school, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil. It will be handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. If this occurs a second time, then the school will confiscate the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from a member of senior leadership team.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.

Smart Watches and Wearable Technology

Due to the increasing capabilities of smart watches, including cameras, internet capability and other recording devices, pupils are not permitted to wear a Smart Watch in school.

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Digital Watches without independent connectivity and cameras may be worn providing they are being used as normal watches and for no other function beyond telling the time. Staff must be satisfied that this is the case.

Where a pupil is found to be wearing a Smart Watch in school, it will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the watch. The smart watch will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the watch at the end of the school day

Electronic Tablets

Electronic Tablets should not be brought to school.

Breaching Policy

The school has the right to examine the data or files on any mobile phone, device or smart watch if there is a good reason to do so (DfE guidance Screening and Confiscating July 2022) In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to examine the data or files, school staff should reasonably suspect that the data or file on the device has been, or could be used, to cause harm, undermine the safe environment of the school and disrupt teaching, or be used to commit an offence. In the unlikely event of needing to do this, we will endeavour to contact a parent or carer before any search is undertaken. As part of this agreement, your child must unlock the device immediately, when requested by a member of staff. If a pupil is found to have taken photographs, video footage or audio recording with any mobile phone, device or smart technology, whilst in school, the device will be confiscated and this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

In determining whether there is a 'good reason' to erase any data or files from the device, the member of staff should consider whether the material found may constitute evidence relating to a suspected offence. If the data or files are not suspected to be evidence in relation to an offence, the device will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil/responsible adult in the presence of a senior teacher.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

In those instances, the data or files should not be deleted, and the device will be handed to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

Staff policy

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to use their personal mobile phone, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staffroom).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time for personal reasons. For instance (this list is non-exhaustive):

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to allow for special arrangements. If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number as a point of emergency contact.

Parent, Visitors or Volunteers In School Policy

Adults either in school or accompanying children on school trips should not use their cameras or mobile phone cameras to take pictures of pupils unless it is at a public event such as Sports Day of their own children for personal use and not shared on social media. Adults, visitors or volunteers in school should only use their mobile phone or smart technologies within the confines of the school office or staff room. Personal cameras and mobile phone cameras should not be used to take pictures of children or information about children. If parents who accompany children on a school trip are asked by the teacher to take photos as a record of the educational visit, they will be issued with a school camera. Parents accompanying children on school trips should not use their mobile cameras, tablets or wearable devices to take pictures of children.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti bullying, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Social Media, eSafety and Acceptable users policies. This policy will be monitored and reviewed as required but at least every three years. Parents may want to look at the advice on www.internetmatters.org which explains how to add some parental controls to the phone and gives advice on how to keep children safe.

Related DfE guidance:

[DfE's guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation July 2022](#)

[DfE's guidance on mobile phones in schools](#)