



Mobile Phone Prohibition Policy

School Mission Statement

St. Michael & St. Martin school follows the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, in its daily life through celebration of the Liturgy and through following the values taught in the Gospel of Jesus, by:

Learning our faith.

Living our faith.

Loving our faith.

Thus the school recognises the dignity of every human person because s/he is a child of God, while fostering awareness of the world's poor. Equality of opportunity for every person is therefore paramount and precludes all forms of discrimination on grounds of colour, gender, race, social class or ability.

The school aims to nurture the spiritual, intellectual and physical growth of each pupil through a holistic approach, which takes due note of the needs of every child while, at the same time, striving for excellence in all aspects of education in a secure environment.

1. Policy Statement

*To safeguard pupils, promote wellbeing, and maintain a calm, focused learning environment, **St Michael & St Martin School operates a complete prohibition on mobile phones and smart devices on the school site.***

*In accordance with Department for Education guidance supporting phone-free schools, **pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones onto school premises under any circumstances.***

This policy applies during:

- the entire school day*
 - breakfast clubs and after-school provision*
 - educational visits and off-site activities*
 - any activity taking place on school grounds*
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Safeguarding Assurance Statement

***Safeguarding is at the heart of all school practice at St Michael & St Martin.** This policy forms part of a whole-school approach to protecting children by proactively reducing risks associated with mobile technology, including online harm, peer-on-peer abuse, and unauthorised recording. By maintaining a phone-free environment, the school strengthens supervision, promotes respectful relationships, and supports pupils' wellbeing and safe engagement with learning. All staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities, remain vigilant to emerging risks, and act immediately in line with statutory guidance and the school's child protection procedures to ensure every pupil feels safe, protected, and supported.*

2. Legal & Statutory Framework

This policy operates in accordance with:

- **Education Act 2002** – duty to safeguard and promote pupil welfare*
- **Education and Inspections Act 2006** – authority to regulate behaviour and discipline*

- **Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice (DfE)** – staff powers to search for and confiscate prohibited items
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** – safeguarding and child protection duties
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children** – multi-agency safeguarding responsibilities
- **UK GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018** – protection of personal data and privacy
- **DfE Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance (2024–2026)** – support for phone-free school environments

Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, schools have the authority to regulate pupil conduct and enforce disciplinary measures where rules are breached.

3. Devices Covered

This prohibition includes:

- mobile phones and smartphones
 - smartwatches capable of communication or internet access
 - tablets with connectivity functions
 - any device capable of:
 - calls or messaging
 - internet access
 - photography, video or audio recording
 - notifications or social media access
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4. Rationale

The school maintains a no-phone environment to:

- protect safeguarding and pupil privacy
- prevent cyberbullying and peer-on-peer abuse
- reduce exposure to harmful or age-inappropriate content
- support concentration and positive behaviour
- reduce distractions and social pressures

- promote healthy peer interaction and wellbeing

This approach supports safeguarding duties and helps prevent unlawful recording, sharing of images, and breaches of data protection law.

5. Travel To and From School

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring pupils can travel safely without bringing a phone onto the school site.

If communication is required:

- parents should contact the school office
 - pupils may use the school office telephone if necessary
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6. Communication with Parents

During the school day:

- parents must contact the school office to pass messages
 - urgent messages will be relayed promptly
 - pupils will not use personal devices to contact home
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7. Exceptions

Exceptions will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances**, authorised in writing by the Headteacher, including:

- medical monitoring devices
- specific SEND requirements
- safeguarding arrangements directed by external agencies

Any approved device use will be risk assessed and strictly managed.

8. Search, Confiscation & Enforcement

Confiscation

If a prohibited device is brought onto site:

- *it will be confiscated immediately*
- *stored securely*
- *returned only to a parent/carer*

Searches

Authorised staff may search a pupil's belongings where there is reasonable suspicion that a prohibited device is present, in line with DfE guidance.

Accessing Data

Staff will not access personal content on a device unless there is a safeguarding concern and doing so is lawful, necessary, and proportionate.

9. Breaches of Policy

Where a pupil breaches this policy:

1. *Device confiscation*
2. *Parent/carer required to collect the device*
3. *Behaviour sanctions applied in line with the Behaviour Policy*
4. *Persistent breaches may result in further disciplinary action*

The school accepts no liability for loss, theft, or damage to prohibited devices brought onto site.

10. Safeguarding, Child Protection & Online Safety

This policy supports the school's safeguarding culture by reducing risks including:

- *cyberbullying and peer-on-peer abuse*
- *unauthorised photography or filming*
- *sharing images without consent*
- *exposure to harmful content*
- *grooming or inappropriate contact*

Maintaining a phone-free environment supports safe supervision and reduces safeguarding risks during unstructured times.

Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises involving a device:

- *the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** must be informed immediately*
- *staff must not conduct detailed investigations of device content*
- *safeguarding procedures will be followed*
- *referrals to external agencies may be made where appropriate*

Unauthorised Recording & Image Sharing

Unauthorised recording or sharing of images may:

- *place pupils at safeguarding risk*
- *violate privacy and dignity*
- *constitute peer-on-peer abuse*
- *breach data protection law*

Incidents will be managed in line with safeguarding and child protection procedures.

11. Teaching Responsible Technology Use

Although devices are prohibited on site, pupils are taught:

- *online safety and digital citizenship*

- *respectful digital behaviour*
- *how to recognise risks and seek help*
- *how to report concerns to trusted adults*

This teaching reflects statutory RSHE and safeguarding expectations.

12. Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- *enforce this policy consistently and fairly*
 - *model appropriate professional device use*
 - *remain vigilant to safeguarding concerns*
 - *follow reporting procedures where misuse or risk is identified*
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13. Monitoring & Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually to ensure continued compliance with legislation, safeguarding requirements, and national guidance.

Agreed and Approved by Governing Body :

Date :18.03.26

Review Date : March 2027

Person Responsible :Nicola Duggan / Sabina Bell