St Peter's Brafferton
C of E (VA) Primary School

Let your light shine!

At St Peter's Brafferton, we are a nurturing community where every person can **flourish.** We aspire to be the best in all we do, promoting **lifelong learners** who are curious, compassionate, and courageous. We **value** every person and every opportunity to **'let our light shine'**.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
— Matthew 5:16

Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy

Purpose of the Policy

St Peter's Brafferton CE VA Primary School is committed to providing a safe, calm, and focused learning environment where all pupils can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. This policy aligns with our school vision and values, particularly promoting communication, mental wellbeing, and tolerance.

In line with the latest guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on mobile phones in schools (June 2026), St Peter's Brafferton CE VA Primary School does not permit the use of mobile phones by pupils during the school day.

Research and national guidance recognise that restricting mobile phone use in schools:

- Reduces distraction and disruption
- Improves concentration and learning outcomes
- Supports positive behaviour
- Minimises risks related to bullying, online harm, and safeguarding

This policy sets out clear expectations for pupils, staff, parents, and visitors regarding mobile phones and other smart devices on school premises.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils from Nursery to Year 6
- All staff, including teaching, support, admin, premises and leadership teams
- Parents, carers, and visitors

- School trips and off-site activities

For the purpose of this policy, “mobile phones” includes:

- Smartphones
- Mobile phones without internet access
- Smartwatches with messaging, camera, or SIM capability
- Any device capable of communication, recording, photography, or internet access (for example Smart Glasses)

Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is informed by and complies with:

- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Department for Education guidance on mobile phones in schools

Equality Act 2010

Core Principle

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones or smart devices at any point during the school day, including:

- Before lessons
- During lessons
- Breaktimes
- Lunchtimes
- Movement around school

The school day is defined as the time from arrival on school premises until departure at the end of the day.

Pupil Expectations

1.1 Bringing Phones to School

Pupils should not bring mobile phones to school.

Exceptions may be granted by the Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team where:

- A pupil walks home independently
- There is a specific safeguarding or medical reason

Where permission is granted:

- Phones must be switched off before entering the school site
- Phones must be handed to the school office immediately on arrival
- Phones will be stored securely
- Phones will be returned at the end of the school day

1.2 Prohibited Use

Pupils must not:

- Use phones during the school day
- Use phones to contact others during school hours
- Record, photograph, or film others
- Access social media or messaging platforms during school time

All communication during the school day must go through the school office.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff must:

- Model appropriate and professional mobile phone use
- Avoid personal phone use during the school day time unless authorised
- Follow the Staff Code of Conduct regarding personal devices
- Challenge and report breaches consistently
- Report safeguarding concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Support the school's no-use policy
- Avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day
- Communicate urgent messages via the school office
- Reinforce safe and responsible technology use at home

The school office remains the primary and safest route for communication during school hours.

Handling Breaches

If a pupil breaches this policy:

1. The device will be confiscated immediately.
2. The device will be stored securely.
3. Parents/carers will be informed to collect the device in person.
4. Further sanctions may be applied in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Repeated breaches may result in:

- Removal of permission to bring a phone
- Behaviour sanctions
- A parental meeting

Serious breaches involving:

- Bullying
- Sharing of, or taking inappropriate images
- Safeguarding concerns
- Data protection violations

Will be managed in line with safeguarding and child protection procedures and may involve external agencies where necessary.

Safeguarding and Privacy

The school has a duty to protect pupils and staff from:

- Online harm
- Cyberbullying
- Exploitation
- Inappropriate content
- Unauthorised image capture

Mobile phones must never be used to:

- Take photos or videos without permission
- Share images of pupils or staff
- Access harmful or inappropriate content

Any concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL.

Educational Use of Technology

Where digital technology is used to support learning:

- It will be school-owned devices
- It will be planned and supervised
- It will comply with Online Safety and Data Protection policies

Personal pupil devices will never be used for learning.

Storage and Security

Where phones are handed in:

- They will be stored in a secure location
- The school accepts no liability for loss or damage beyond reasonable care
- Pupils bring devices at their own risk

Communication of the Policy

This policy will be:

- Published on the school website
- Reinforced through assemblies and curriculum teaching
- Reviewed during staff training and INSET

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually.

Monitoring will include:

- Behaviour and incident logs
- Safeguarding reports

- Staff confidence in enforcement
- Feedback from pupils and parents
- Impact on behaviour, focus, and learning outcomes

Related Policies (all available on our website or paper copies by request)

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Online Safety Policy
- Data Protection and Privacy Policy

Reviewed/monitored by: Full Governing Body
Date adopted: September 2026
Next review: September 2027
Review Cycle: Annually