

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children in order to maintain a **safe, focused and respectful learning environment**. This policy supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, promotes positive social interaction, and ensures equity across all REAch2 schools.

2. Scope

This policy applies to **all children enrolled in any REAch2 school**.

It does **not** apply to staff or visitors, who must follow separate guidance regarding appropriate mobile phone use within the school environment.

3. Policy Statement

Children are **not permitted to use mobile phones** on the school premises before school, after school, or at any time during the school day. This includes lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, and any time on school premises or grounds.

This prohibition also applies to **smartwatches and other connected devices** with communication or internet capabilities.

4. Rationale

- **Safeguarding:**
Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.
- **Learning Focus:**
Mobile phones distract children and can disrupt learning, concentration and classroom routines.
- **Social Development:**
Reducing reliance on phones encourages face-to-face communication and supports emotional and social growth.
- **Equity:**
A clear, consistent policy reduces pressure on families to purchase or provide expensive devices.

5. Implementation

5.1 Before and After School

- Children who require a mobile phone for safety reasons (e.g., to support safe travel to and from school) **must hand their device in to the school** upon arrival.
- Phones must be switched off before handing in.

- Devices will be stored securely during the school day and returned to children at the end of the school day.

5.2 During the School Day

- Children are **not permitted** to use, access, or carry mobile phones at any point.
- Any phone that is **seen or heard** during the school day will be **confiscated** and must be collected by a parent or carer.

Schools have the legal authority to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary measure. Staff are protected from liability for loss or damage provided they act lawfully, reasonably, and proportionately, taking any relevant circumstances into account.

6. Communication with Parents and Carers

- This policy will be communicated via the school website, newsletters, and induction materials provided when a child joins the school.
- Parents and carers are requested **not to contact children directly** on their mobile phone during the school day. All urgent messages must be directed through the school office.

7. Medical Exceptions

- The Trust recognises that some children have **documented medical conditions** requiring access to a connected device (e.g., glucose monitoring systems, asthma apps, communication tools advised by healthcare professionals).
- In such cases:
 - Parents/carers must provide medical evidence.
 - A personalised agreement will be developed with school staff to outline how the device will be used safely.
 - Only the functionality required for the medical condition may be enabled.

8. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed **every two years** by the Trust's **Head of IT**, or sooner if required due to changes in safeguarding guidance, technology, or operational needs.