



Smartphone Policy

This policy applies to Steephill School, including the EYFS setting.

Written by: Helen Millward Headteacher, September 2025

Next review due: September 2026

Rationale

At Steephill School, we are committed to creating a safe, focused and nurturing environment where children can learn and play free from the distractions and pressures of mobile technology.

Smartphones are not necessary in a primary school setting and can present safeguarding, wellbeing and social challenges.

For this reason, Steephill School is a smartphone-free school.

Expectations for Pupils

- No pupil is permitted to bring a smartphone onto the school site.
 - All learning, communication and digital access required during the school day will be provided by the school.
 - Pupils do not need smartphones for travel to and from school, as alternative arrangements (such as parental collection, the school minibus, walking with permission, or direct parent communication via the school office) are in place.
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Safeguarding and Online Safety

- Online safety and responsible technology use are taught through our curriculum. Explicit coverage takes place in PSHE, Computing and assemblies.
 - At Steephill we strongly encourage parents to monitor and guide their child's use of technology at home, ensuring apps, games and online platforms are age appropriate.
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Responsibilities

- **Parents** are expected to support the school's smartphone-free approach by ensuring children do not bring phones onto the site.
 - **Staff** will model appropriate use of technology, ensuring that the school environment remains a phone-free zone for pupils.
 - **Pupils** understand that smartphones are not part of school life and respect the school's values and code of conduct.
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Sanctions

- If a pupil is found to have brought a smartphone onto the school site, the phone will be confiscated and returned directly to a parent at the end of the day.
 - Repeated breaches may result in further sanctions, in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.
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DfE Guidance & National Context

- The Department for Education issued **non-statutory guidance** in February 2024: [Mobile phones in schools](#)
 - A supporting toolkit is also available: [Creating a mobile phone-free school environment – toolkit for schools](#) (DfE, 2024)
 - This aligns with wider DfE guidance on behaviour: [Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff](#) (DfE, Feb 2024)
 - A recent survey by the Children’s Commissioner shows that **21% of primary schools already prohibit smartphones on site**, which makes this policy consistent with national best practice: [Children’s Commissioner school survey \(April 2025\)](#)
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Policy Addendum

We align with and go beyond current DfE guidance. While the DfE recommends prohibiting phone use during the school day, Steephill School adopts a firmer approach by ensuring no smartphones are brought onto the site at all.

This decision:

- Mirrors the strongest practice among primary schools.
- Enhances safeguarding and wellbeing.
- Is consistent with DfE guidance, which encourages schools to set clear rules and consequences tailored to their context.

This policy will be reviewed annually. Should national legislation or statutory guidance emerge, we will adapt our approach accordingly.