FROEBEL HOUSE SCHOOL

MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

Introduction and Aims:

At Froebel House School the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. In line with statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance, Froebel House School is a mobile phone-free environment for pupils by default throughout the entire school day.

Our priority is to foster a calm, safe, and focused environment conducive to learning, to encourage face-to-face social interaction, and to protect our pupils from the safeguarding risks associated with unsupervised mobile use (cyberbullying, distraction, taking of non-consensual photos/videos and exposure to inappropriate content).

We believe that primary school-aged children do not require access to personal mobile devices during the school day.

Definition of Devices

This policy covers any personal, hand-held, or wearable technology. This includes:

- Mobile phones/smartphones.
- Smartwatches (specifically those capable of sending/receiving messages, taking photos, or accessing the internet).
- Tablets and personal gaming devices.

Rules for Pupils

- Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or smart devices into school.

  Smartwatches: Smartwatches with camera, internet, or messaging capabilities must not be worn to school. Any smartwatch worn must be set to "school mode" (with all interactive features disabled).

- If in the rare event of a parent wishing for his/her child to bring a mobile device to school:
  - the parent must discuss the issue first with the headteacher.
  - the device must be switched off and handed in to the headteacher first thing in the morning to be stored in the school office and collected from there by

the child at home time (it is the responsibility of the child to remember to collect the device, and the device is left at the owner's own risk).

- Where mobile phones are used out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the head teacher does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site' - refer to Anti-Bullying Policy.

Sanctions and Confiscation

Where a pupil breaches these rules by possessing or using an unauthorized device during the school day:

1. The device will be immediately confiscated by a member of staff and handed to the Headteacher/DSL.
2. The confiscation will be logged on the school's MyConcerns.
3. The device will only be returned directly to a parent or carer; it will not be handed back to the pupil.
4. Under the Education Act 2011, staff have the legal right to search a pupil's bag if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a prohibited item (including a device used in breach of school rules) is being concealed.

Statutory Exceptions (SEND and Medical Needs)

In accordance with our duties under the Equality Act 2010, we will make reasonable adjustments to this policy for individual children who require a device for essential medical or educational purposes:

- Medical Monitoring (e.g., Type 1 Diabetes): If a child uses a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) that transmits data to a dedicated mobile device, the device will be permitted in school. Its placement, access, and monitoring will be strictly detailed in the child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): If a pupil requires a specific tablet or communication device as an assistive technology tool to access the curriculum, this will be formally agreed upon with the SENDCo, class teacher, and parents.

Adults

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile devices on site. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive. This policy should also be read in relation

to the following documentation:

- Keeping children safe in education 2026 Statutory guidance for schools and colleges - 2026
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools

Code of conduct:

A code of conduct is promoted with the aim of creating a cooperative workforce, where staff work as a team, have high values and respect each other; thus creating a strong morale and sense of commitment leading to increased productivity.

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

• have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.

• know how to minimise risk.

• avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.

• understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.

• are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.

• are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly. It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users:

Personal Mobiles –

Staff:

• Staff are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.

• Staff should have their phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer or locker) during class time.

• Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (eg. classroom, playground).

• Use of phones (including receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to non contact time when no children are present e.g. in office areas, staff room, empty classrooms.

• Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then staff should make the Headteacher aware of this and can have their device in case of having to receive an emergency call.

• Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile device, for example: to take recordings of children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as the school cameras and ipad's only.

• Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

• The use of a mobile device may be allowed in certain circumstances, but this should be with the consent of the Headteacher only.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes:

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication on off-site activities.

However, staff should ensure that:

• Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional (and will never include taking photographs of children).

• Mobile phones should not be used to contact parents during school trips – all relevant communications should be made via the Headteacher and school office only.

• Where parents are accompanying trips, they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking) during the trip or use their phone to take photographs of children.

• Special arrangements may be made during residential trips.

Business devices:

Any employees who have been provided with a mobile device for business use, must ensure the mobile used is solely for this reason, unless express permission has been given that the phone can also be used for personal use. Schools have the authority in place to ensure that mobile device and associated phone bills are checked on a regular basis.

Volunteers, Visitors and Contractors:

All Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors are expected to follow our mobile device policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises. On arrival, such visitors will be informed of our expectations around the use of mobile device.

Parents:

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile devices while at school, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication at all times. We therefore ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is courteous and appropriate to the school environment. We also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones – but insist that parents do not publish images (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own. Please refer to Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in Schools.

Dissemination:

The mobile device policy will be shared with staff and volunteers as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school office and website.

DfE guide on Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools"- what the law allows schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

National Guidance

The following national guidance should also be referred to:

- DfE: Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022
- DfE: Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff September 2022