



Perseverance **Respect** **Honesty** **Friendship**

Smartphone-Free Policy

Date written	Authorised by	Review Date
June 2026	Governors	June 2027





I Purpose

This policy sets out the school's approach to becoming a smartphone-free environment, ensuring that:

- Pupils are protected from risks associated with early smartphone use
- Expectations for families are clear and consistent
- Peer pressure around device ownership is reduced
- Communication and safety needs are still met appropriately

2 Aims

The school aims to:

- Promote pupil wellbeing and safeguarding
- Support families to make informed decisions about device use
- Create a consistent, low-distraction learning environment
- Reduce social and cultural pressure on families to provide smartphones at primary age

3 Policy Statement

From September 2026, Brooklands Primary School will operate a smartphone-free approach. Smartphones are not permitted to be brought into school by pupils.

Pupils may bring:

- A basic mobile phone, or
- An approved alternative device

All devices brought into school must comply with the criteria set out in Appendix A.

4 Rationale

This policy is informed by:



A parent consultation of 76 respondents, of which:

- 84% supported implementation from September 2026
- 74% requested guidance for parents

The consultation highlighted:

- Strong support for a whole-school approach
- Recognition that peer pressure drives smartphone use
- A need for clear, consistent expectations

5 Use of Phones in School

Any device brought onto site must remain:

- Switched off
- Handed in to school office at start of day and returned at end of day
- Stored securely in accordance with school procedures (note school are not responsible for loss/theft/damage of devices whilst on school premises)

Devices must not be used during the school day unless explicitly authorised by staff.

6 Ownership vs Use

Pupils may own smartphones outside school. However, smartphones must not be brought onto school premises. This distinction will be clearly communicated to families.

The school will purchase a limited number of basic devices (see Appendix I) which may be loaned to families on a first-come, first-served basis, in response to financial considerations raised during consultation.

All devices remain the property of the school. In the event of loss, theft or damage, the cost of repair or replacement will be the responsibility of the parent/carer.

Parents and pupils are responsible for the safe and appropriate use of the device throughout the loan period.

A formal loan agreement must be signed prior to issue and adhered to at all times



7 Exceptions

Exceptions will only be granted where there is a clear and evidenced need, including:

- Medical requirements (e.g. diabetes monitoring)
- SEND or safeguarding needs (where safety, health or inclusion cannot reasonably be achieved through alternative means)

All exceptions must:

- Be agreed in advance with the school
- Be proportionate and necessary
- Be reviewed regularly

8 Parental Guidance

The school will provide guidance to support families, including:

- Recommended devices
- Online safety and managing phone use
- Advice on delaying smartphone introduction
- Support from industry experts

This reflects consultation feedback, where 74% of parents requested additional support.

9 Monitoring and Review

The school will:

- Monitor compliance and implementation from September 2026
- Seek parent feedback during the first year
- Review the policy annually

10 Roles and Responsibilities

School



- Provide clear communication and guidance
- Apply the policy consistently
- Consider exceptions fairly and proportionately
- Teach children about safe use of devices as part of Online Safety and PSHE curriculum

Parents/Carers

- Ensure any device brought to school meets policy requirements
- Support children in adhering to expectations
- Agree to follow procedures as part of home/school agreement
- Support school's message regarding safe use of devices

Pupils

- Follow school rules regarding devices
- Use devices responsibly outside school

II Non-compliance

Any device brought on site that does not comply with this policy may be confiscated by the school for a reasonable period of time.

Parents will be informed, and arrangements made for return in accordance with school procedures.



Appendix A: Recommended Devices

A1. Principles for Approved Devices

Devices brought to school should:

- Allow basic communication only (calls/texts)
- Be low cost, simple and safe
- Support children travelling to and from school
- Not allow access to:
 - Social media
 - Internet browsing
 - Messaging apps

A2. Recommended Device Types

1. Basic Mobile Phones (Recommended Standard)

Description: Simple phones designed for calls and texts only.

Suitable for:

- Most pupils (particularly Years 4–6)

Features:

- No app store or internet access
- Long battery life
- Durable and low cost

Examples:

- Nokia 105 / Nokia 110
- Nokia 8210
- Doro 1370

Typical cost: £15–£40

2. GPS Tracking Devices (Optional Alternative)

Description: Devices used solely for location tracking.



Suitable for:

- Younger pupils
- Families prioritising tracking over communication

Examples:

- Apple AirTag
- Samsung SmartTag
- Tile trackers
- Dedicated child GPS trackers

Note: These devices do not provide communication and may need to be used alongside other arrangements.

3. Restricted-Use Phones (Transitional Option)

Description: Smartphones configured to restrict functionality.

Suitable for:

- Families who already own a smartphone
- Short-term transition arrangements

Requirements:

- Calls/text only SIM
- Apps and internet disabled via parental controls
- No social media or messaging apps

4. Alternative Child-Safe Devices (Optional)

Description: Devices designed specifically for children, offering limited communication and tracking functionality without full smartphone capability.

Examples include:

- Karri Messenger – voice messaging device only (no screen, includes GPS)
- Xplora Smartwatch – calls and texts only with GPS tracking
- Xplora One – restricted-use phone (calls and texts only, GPS)



Key features:

- Restricted communication (approved contacts only)
- No access to social media or open internet
- Built-in GPS tracking

Important:

- Many of these devices require a monthly subscription
- Devices must comply with the principles in A1
- The school reserves the right to refuse devices where functionality cannot be clearly verified

Devices that do not meet these restrictions will not be permitted in school

Note: “Middle” phones (e.g. Balance, Pinwheel, HMD Fusion/Fuse) may offer reduced functionality but are not typically permitted, as the school cannot verify settings and this may undermine a consistent smartphone-free approach.

The expectation remains that basic phones represent the standard approach, with alternative devices used only where necessary

A3. Not Permitted

The following are not allowed on site:

Smartphones with access to:

- Internet
- Social media
- Messaging apps

Devices capable of:

- Sharing images or content online
- Accessing games, apps or streaming services



A4. Exceptions

Exceptions may be made for:

- Medical needs
- SEND or safeguarding reasons (where safety, health or inclusion cannot reasonably be achieved through alternative means.)
- In most cases (e.g. young carers), a basic phone will be considered a more appropriate and proportionate option than a smartphone.

All exceptions must be formally agreed with the school.

A5. Summary

The expected position is: Most pupils will either bring a basic phone or no device at all, with other options considered only where appropriate and in line with this policy.