PERTON FIRST SCHOOL

MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

Version: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027

Statement of intent

Mobile phones, tablets and other personal electronic devices such as smart watches and air tags have become widely available and accessible to pupils. This policy is designed to prohibit the use of all of the above and similar smart technology throughout the school day, including break and lunch times.

Perton First School accepts that personal mobile phones, smart watches, tablets and air tags are often given to pupils by their parents to ensure their safety and personal security at home; however, such devices pose inherent risks and may jeopardise the learning environment. The school also recognises the safeguarding risks associated with pupils having unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile networks during the school day.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE 'Mobile phones in schools'
- DfE 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents'
- DfE 'Behaviour in Schools'
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school'
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy
- Restorative Practice Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

2. Ownership and responsibility

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing property that is lost, stolen or damaged either on school premises or travelling to and from school, and at school events.

Staff will be protected against liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to personal devices that have been confiscated as an appropriate sanction, provided that they have acted lawfully.

Pupils are responsible for replacing school property they lose, damage or steal, including electronic devices.

3. Items not allowed in school

Pupils **must not** bring any of the following devices to school:

• Mobile phones

• Smart watches

• Personal digital assistants (PDAs)

• Handheld entertainment systems, e.g. video game consoles, iPods

• Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, laptops

• Wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems

• Air tags

Staff members will be required to model expectations surrounding the use of personal devices when they are in front of pupils throughout the school day, and only use their personal devices where required for work or safeguarding purposes and only in the staff room or school offices.

Staff and pupils will adhere to the Social Media Policy at all times.

Staff will not give out their personal contact details to pupils or parents.

4. Searching pupils

School pupils have a right for their private life to be respected under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). This right is not absolute, and the school can interfere with this right as long as it is justified, proportionate, and aligns with the powers to search in the Education Act 1996.

All searches will be conducted in line with the school's Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy.

The headteachers, and other authorised staff members, will have the power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Mobile phones and similar devices will be deemed as prohibited items that may be searched for in line with the Restorative Practice Behaviour Policy.

In all cases the authorised member of staff will always:

- Seek the co-operation of the pupil before conducting a search.
- Ensure the pupil understands the reason for the search and how it will be conducted.

- Give the pupil the opportunity to ask any questions so that their agreement is informed.
- Have due regard to the DfE's 'Searching, screening and confiscation' guidance.

Staff may search a pupil's outer clothing, pockets, possessions, desks or bags. Staff conducting a search must not require the pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing - outer clothing means any item of clothing that is not worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear and includes hats, shoes, boots or scarves. Possessions means any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control - this includes desks and bags.

The staff member conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil being searched. A witness to the search must be present; this should also be a staff member of the same sex as the pupil being searched.

5. Sanctions

The school will apply sanctions for breaches of this policy in a consistent and proportionate manner, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Where this policy is clearly breached, for example where a device is brought into school, staff will feel remove them item and send it to the school office.

Confiscated personal electronic devices will be locked away securely in the school office and will need to be collected by parents/carers.

6. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the headteachers and DSL.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.