



# SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

| Approved by           |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Name:                 | John Barrett       |
| Position:             | Chair of Governors |
| Signed:               |                    |
| Date:                 | September 2026     |
| Proposed review date: | Autumn 2028        |

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## **Statement of Intent**

This policy sets out the framework in which Sir John Barrow School will ensure that it actively promotes a positive approach towards moderate mobile phone usage by children and staff.

It meets the requirements of the DfE (June 2026) to ensure schools are 'mobile free zones' whilst balancing the needs of some children with exceptional medical/healthcare circumstances.

It should be considered alongside other messaging and advice around mobile phone usage for children that are part of IT/safeguarding and general good health and well-being advice. This is about children not becoming over-dependent on their device and understanding breaks from screentime and moderating usage is a sensible and healthy choice.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils
- Minimise disruption to learning
- Promote responsible use of technology

## 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy will have consideration for the following guidance:

- DfE, Mobile Phones in Schools, June 2026
- DfE, Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2026
- Ofsted, School Inspection framework and Handbook V2, Sept 2026.

1.2. This policy is carried out in conjunction with our following other policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. Sir John Barrow School understands the importance of promoting a moderate approach to mobile phone usage ensuring children understand boundaries and limits are a positive habit to create

2.2. The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers and staff are aware of the requirement to uphold the approach through the methods outlined in this policy, and will ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to carry out these methods.

2.3. Teachers and support staff will ensure that the policy is enforced equally and fairly for all children

2.4. Children and parents are expected to follow the guidelines within the policy

## 3. General Principles

3.1 Phones must not interfere with teaching, learning, or safeguarding.

3.2 Mobile phones are not needed during the school day in a primary setting.

3.3 The school recognises that some pupils may carry phones for safety reasons/family circumstances (e.g. travel to/from school). However the school does not encourage children to believe that having a phone 'makes them safe' - it is their attitude, responsibility and behaviour that does!

## 4. Equalities and Exceptions

4.1 Exceptions may be made for:

- Medical/Healthcare needs
- Specific special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)

4.2 These must be agreed with the Headteacher and documented.

4.3 In these circumstances, The following are strictly prohibited:

- Taking photos or videos on school premises
- Accessing inappropriate content
- Using phones for bullying, harassment, or social media during school hours
- Any misuse will be treated as a serious behaviour/safeguarding concern

## 5. Bringing Mobile Phones to School

**As a general rule, children are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school. If a phone is brought in, it must be:**

- **Switched off (not silent or vibrate)**
- **Handed in at the start of the day and stored in the school office**
- **Collected at the end of the day and must remain switched off until outside the school premises**

## 5. Communication with Parents/Carers

If a pupil needs to contact home, they must:

- Speak to a member of staff
- Use the school phone
- Parents should contact the school office in emergencies rather than calling pupils directly.

## 6. Sanctions

If a pupil breaches this policy:

- The phone will be confiscated
- Returned to a parent/carers (not the pupil)
- Further action may be taken in line with the school's behaviour policy

- Repeated breaches may result in a total ban on bringing phone to school

## 7. Smart Devices

In line with DfE recommendations, this policy also applies to:

- Smartwatches with communication or camera functions
- Tablets or similar personal devices •

These must follow the same rules as mobile phones.

## 8. Staff training

8.1 All staff will have access to further training should they require it. The school will continue to use advice and support from DfE, National College and other organisations around this topic.

## 9. Review

9.1. This policy will be reviewed every two years or amended as appropriate to reflect any changes to regulations.

## Appendix One:

### *Parental Request for Mobile Phone to be stored in school*

# SJB: PARENTAL REQUEST FOR MOBILE PHONE TO BE STORED IN SCHOOL



I have read the school policy regarding school being a mobile-free zone.

I request permission for my child's mobile phone to be stored in school, switched off.

I understand my child will not have access to their phone during the school day.

I understand the school will take no responsibility or liability for loss or damage to the phone during the school day.

I will talk to my child about how they need to follow the school policy regarding the use of mobile phones.

My child needs their phone to be stored in school because:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(parent/carer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher/SLT: \_\_\_\_\_