ETTINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
and PRE-SCHOOL

Reviewed November 2026

MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Mobile phones, smartwatches, and wearable technology continue to evolve. Wireless connections have extended the capabilities of these devices, enabling access to a wide range of content and services globally. Many devices now offer internet and email access, alongside functions like messaging, camera, video, and sound recording.

This policy covers:

- Mobile Phones: Including smartphones and brick phones.
- Wearable Devices: Including smartwatches (such as Apple Watch) and fitness trackers.
- Smart Glasses: Wearable computer frames that integrate AI assistants, cameras, open-ear audio, or heads-up digital displays.

Ettington C of Primary School and Pre-School supports a Smartphone Free Childhood. As a school, we aspire to live out God's plan for all to flourish.

We believe in providing our children with opportunities to use and develop the gifts and talents they have been blessed with, to ensure they embrace 'Life in its fullness' (John 10:10) following the teachings of Jesus.

Our vision is to place the child at the heart of everything we do, Learning for the Fullness of Life'. It is to work together, where everyone is a partner in learning; providing a safe, happy, caring and stimulating community, where children are given opportunities to reach their true potential.

1. AIM

At Ettington, we recognise that mobile phones and wearable technology are part of everyday life.

In line with DfE statutory guidance Mobile phones in schools (June 2026), this policy aims to:

- Ensure schools are mobile phone-free environments by default to create a calm, safe environment conducive to teaching.
- Promote and set an example for safe and responsible technology use.
- Set clear guidelines for pupils, staff, parents, and volunteers.
- Address challenges such as child protection risks, data protection, lesson disruption, bullying, theft, and location tracking.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals with access to personal or work-related mobile phones, smartwatches, and wearable devices on site, including staff, volunteers, children, parents, visitors, and contractors.

3. PERSONAL DEVICES (STAFF AND ADULTS)

The enhanced functions of these devices - particularly cameras, internet access and AI - are susceptible to misuse, including exploitation, bullying, and unauthorised imaging.

Contact Time: Staff are not permitted to use personal mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, or other wearable devices while children are present or during contact time.

Storage: During contact time, devices must be switched off (not silent/vibrate). For wearables, staff may use features like 'Schooltime' and 'Do Not Disturb' which restrict the device to ordinary time-keeping only.
Personal Use: Staff must not use their own devices for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.
Restricted Areas: Use is limited to non-contact time in areas where pupils are not present, such as staff rooms or offices.
Emergencies: Personal phones may be used during emergencies (e.g., fire evacuation, lockdown). For personal emergencies, family should contact the school office.
School Trips: Staff may use personal phones to contact the school regarding queries or incidents but must not use them to contact parents directly.

4. DATA PROTECTION

Personal Data: Staff must not use personal devices to process personal data or confidential school information.
Imagery: Only school devices and cameras may be used to take photographs of pupils.
Cloud Access: Staff may access school systems (e.g., Google Drive, Calendar, Outlook, CPOMS) but must never download content onto personal devices.
Security: All devices must be secured with passwords or PIN codes. Staff may use Authenticator apps on smartphones to access school systems.

5. SANCTIONS

Staff who fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action. Breaches must be recorded using the Record of Concern About an Adult yellow form and submitted to the Headteacher. If the concern is about the Headteacher, the yellow form must be submitted to the Chair of Governors.

6. USE OF DEVICES BY PUPILS

In accordance with DfE expectations, pupils must not have access to mobile phones or wear smart technology (e.g., smart watches and glasses) throughout the school day, including lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtimes. Basic non-internet enabled step counters are acceptable.
Arrival at School: If permitted by the school for Year 6 children who walk to and from school alone, a mobile phone may be brought into school. It must be switched off upon entering the school site, handed to the school office to be locked away for the whole duration of the day (including Breakfast Club and after school clubs/wraparound care), and should not be switched back on until off the school site. **Prohibited Use:** To ensure educational experiences are not disrupted, no phones or wearable technology are allowed on school trips, residential visits, or any school event out of school hours (e.g. camp out, discos, after school clubs).
Confiscation and Searching Confiscation: Schools are permitted to confiscate phones and smart technology from pupils where the policy is breached. Headteachers may confiscate devices for whatever length of time they deem proportionate.
Searching: Headteachers and authorised staff have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item or any item identified in the school rules as an item that may be searched for, such as a mobile phone or wearable device. Guidance: Schools are

permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. School staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. **Offences:** Devices may be searched if there is reason to believe they contain pornographic images, or are being used to commit an offence or cause personal injury. **Liability:** The law protects staff from liability for any loss or damage to confiscated items, provided they have acted lawfully and proportionately.

Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments
SEND: The school will make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils where access to a device is necessary for their disability.
Medical Conditions: Pupils with medical conditions (e.g., diabetes monitoring via a phone sensor) will be permitted to use their device as required for their health. **Individual Circumstances:** Flexibility may be granted for pupils with specific home circumstances, such as young carers, on a case-by-case basis.

7. USE BY PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Parents and visitors must adhere to the same standards as staff while on site:
Imaging: No photos or recordings of pupils or their work are permitted on school grounds or trips, unless agreed by the Headteacher, e.g., Christmas performances. **Meetings:** Devices cannot be used for audio/video recording of meetings.
Social Media: No school-related images or data may be posted without explicit consent.
Contacting Children: Parents must not attempt to contact their child on a personal device during the day; all contact must go through the school office.

8. LOSS, THEFT OR DAMAGE

All devices brought to school must be appropriately labelled and secured with passwords/PINs. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, or wearable devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen on school premises, transport, or during trips.