St. John the Baptist
Catholic Primary School

We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord

Viam Parabimus

Mobile and Wearable Technology Policy

Audience: Staff/ Governors/ Public
Frequency of Review: Annually
Postholder Responsible for Review: Computing Leader

Recommended Associated Documents:
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Online Safety Policy
Social Media Policy
Acceptable Use Policy
Behaviour Regulation Policy
Data Protection Policy

Rights Respecting Links
Article 36 - Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

Approved by the Full Governing Body – September 2026
Review – September 2027

Introduction
St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School recognises that mobile and wearable technology forms an increasingly important part of everyday life.

While technology can provide valuable opportunities for communication, learning and personal safety, it can also present safeguarding, privacy and online safety risks if used inappropriately.

This policy provides clear expectations regarding the use of mobile phones, smart watches, wearable devices and other personal technology by staff, pupils, parents and visitors in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community.

Aims
This policy aims to:

- Promote the safe and responsible use of mobile and wearable technology.
- Safeguard pupils, staff and visitors.
- Protect privacy and confidentiality.
- Support positive digital citizenship.
- Provide clear expectations regarding the use of personal technology within the school environment.

Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence
The school recognises that mobile and wearable technologies continue to evolve and may include Artificial Intelligence (AI) features such as voice assistants, image generation, recording functions or internet-enabled communication.

Any device brought onto school premises must be used in accordance with this policy, the Online Safety Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy.

Devices capable of recording, photographing, messaging or accessing online content will be subject to the same expectations and restrictions outlined within this policy.

For Staff:

- For those members of staff who are class based, phones should be switched off or to silent mode and should be kept in the provided lockers in the staffroom or classroom cupboards during teaching/contact time with pupils.
- Smart watches and fitness trackers may be worn by staff but should only be used for their intended functions during contact time with pupils. Staff should not access messaging, social media, recording functions or personal notifications when supervising children.
- Staff use of mobile phones and wearable devices during their working day should be discreet and appropriate in keeping with professional responsibilities and expectations

- Staff should never contact pupils via their own personal mobile and should not supply their mobile number to parents of children at the school.
- Staff must only use school-owned and authorised devices to photograph or record pupils. Personal devices, including mobile phones and wearable technology, must never be used to photograph, record or store images of pupils.
- Communication with parents should take place through approved school communication platforms, such as Class Dojo, and not through personal mobile numbers, messaging services or social media accounts.

For parents:

- We ask that parents do not encourage children to bring mobile phones or wearable devices (such as a Fitbit or smart watches) to school. However we recognise that for older pupils this may form part of securing an understanding of independence and personal safety as they look beyond the primary environment.
- It is our firm belief that if a child needs to contact a parent or carer, they can do so swiftly from the school office. Similarly, if a message needs to be conveyed from a parent to a child, the school office will take these calls and pass the necessary information on promptly.
- It is important that parents are aware that the school cannot take any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones belonging to parents or pupils on site.
- Parents must only take photos of their own child at any school events and photos/videos of other children are not permitted to be shared or used on Social Media.

For Visitors

- Visitors must refrain from using a personal mobile device in the presence of children
- Taking photographs of staff or pupils is strictly prohibited
- Visitors must follow the schools acceptable use policy for visitors
- Visitors must not use mobile phones or wearable devices to photograph, record or communicate with pupils. Any safeguarding concerns relating to the misuse of personal technology should be reported immediately to a member of staff.

For Pupils:

Foundation Stage & Year 1-5

- Mobile phones or wearable devices are **not** to be brought into school by children in Foundation Stage and children in Years 1-5. It is a requirement that all our younger pupils are collected from school by a responsible adult. The need for a child of these ages to make telephone contact will therefore, not arise.
- If a child is seen with a mobile phone or wearable device they will be taken to the school office where they can be collected at the end of the school day.

Year 6

In Year 6, only those pupils with permission to walk home unaccompanied, are permitted to bring a phone into school. Again, for those children who are collected, the need to make telephone contact will not arise.

It is important that parents allowing a phone to be brought into school are fully aware of how they will be looked after and the sanctions that will be imposed if misused.

- Phones are to be handed in to the school office at the beginning of the day
- Phones are to be switched off
- No use of 'checking' of phones will be allowed during the school day
- Whilst devices are stored securely within the school office, the school cannot guarantee against loss, theft or damage and accepts no liability for personal devices brought onto site.
- The taking of photographs and video footage using a camera phone is strictly prohibited
- Any incident involving photography, recording or sharing of images will be investigated. Pupils may be asked to delete material in the presence of a senior member of staff, and further sanctions may be applied in accordance with the Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding procedures
- Year 6 pupils **should not** wear wearable devices in school. In addition to the risk of loss or damage, many wearable devices now include camera, recording and communication functions. To safeguard pupils and protect privacy, wearable devices are not permitted in school.
- If a child is seen with a mobile phone or wearable device they will be taken to the school office where they can be collected at the end of the school day.
- The parents/carers will be contacted if a child is seen to be using a device inappropriately in school.

Reasonable Adjustments and Exceptional Circumstances:

The school recognises that some pupils may require access to a mobile phone, smartwatch or other smart device during the school day due to a medical condition, disability or other exceptional circumstance.

- Requests for access will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher and SENDCo in consultation with parents/carers and, where appropriate, health professionals.
- Where the use of a device is required to support a pupil's medical needs or disability, reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the school's responsibilities for supporting pupils with medical conditions.

Misuse:

Any children found to have made an infringement of the above expectations will be dealt with under the following guidelines:

- On the first occasion, the phone will be confiscated. Parents/carers will be contacted

and will need to be present for the phone to be returned.

- On the second occasion the phone will be confiscated by the teacher. Parents/carers will be notified and will need to be present for the phone to be returned. After the third occasion, the school will withdraw the agreement to allow the child to bring the mobile phone to school.
- Pupils who do not have permission to walk home unaccompanied and are found to have phones in school, will incur the same confiscation procedures as stated above. Pupils and parents will be reminded that there is no necessity for a phone to be in school in these circumstances and it will be requested that the phone is not brought into school again.

***These procedures apply for mobile phones and any other mobile or wearable technology such as watches and tablets used for communication with other devices.**

Monitoring and Review

The school will review this policy annually or sooner if changes to safeguarding guidance, technology or legislation require.

This policy should be read alongside the associated safeguarding, online safety and acceptable use policies.