

Aston Clinton School
Together we: Aspire, Care and Succeed



Mobile Phones and Mobile Digital Devices Policy

Reviewed by staff	Autumn 2025
Date ratified by the Governing body	Autumn 2025
Next Review Date	Autumn 2028
Governors' committee accountable for review	Full Governing Board

1. Introduction

At Aston Clinton Primary School, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that prioritises focus, social interaction, and child development without unnecessary digital distractions. This policy sets clear guidelines on mobile phone use for staff, parents, visitors, and pupils to ensure the safety, well-being, and best interests of all children.

2. Rationale

Research indicates that excessive exposure to smartphones can impact children's social skills, emotional well-being, and concentration. Schools play a vital role in promoting healthy habits and encouraging in-person interactions. This policy aims to:

- Support children's social development by encouraging face-to-face communication.
- Reduce screen dependency and potential exposure to inappropriate online content, both inside school and outside the school gates
- Minimise distractions and enhance focus on learning.
- Promote a safe and respectful school environment free from the risks associated with unsupervised phone use.
- Champion a childhood unburdened by smartphones, while proactively equipping children with essential digital literacy through safe and guided iPad use, fostering readiness for technology in all settings including high school.

3. Policy Guidelines

3.1 Staff Use of Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones must not be used in classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, or any other areas where pupils are present.
- Staff are expected to set an example of responsible technological use.
- Staff must minimise distractions and ensure a safe environment for children. Personal phones are to be silenced or switched off during class and stored out of sight. Use is restricted to designated break times in non-contact areas: the staff room, empty offices and outside the staff room.
- Under direction from the Headteacher, members of staff may carry a school smartphone to ensure that the school can meet its safeguarding requirements

3.2 Parents and Visitors

- Parents and visitors are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school premises.
- Calls, messages, or social media use must take place off-site.
- Photography or recording on school grounds is strictly prohibited unless expressly authorised by the school for specific events.

3.3 Pupils and Mobile Devices

- From January 2026, children are not permitted to bring **smartphones** or **smartwatches** to school. A smartphone or smartwatch is defined as an internet-enabled device which has a camera and access to APPS.
- Pupils who require a basic phone (non-internet enabled device) for travel purposes must hand it in to the school office upon arrival and collect it at the end of the school day.
- Any unauthorised mobile devices brought to school will first result in a reminder. If repeated, the device will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent or guardian. The device may be retained for a period in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- For the safety and privacy of all pupils, personal tracking devices are generally not permitted for use by children during the school day or on school trips. This is in line with data protection principles and helps protect children, especially those with court orders or protection plans. The school is responsible for supervising your child during school hours and activities, supported by robust risk assessments and appropriate staffing. In extremely rare cases, a tracking device for a child with complex needs may be permitted with explicit Headteacher agreement, a comprehensive risk assessment, and consultation with external agencies.
- Parents may use personal tracking devices, such as Bluetooth trackers (e.g., Apple AirTag or Tilemate) or GPS trackers (e.g., Angelsense or Weenect), for their child's journey to and from school. If these devices also have communication capabilities (e.g., two-way calling), they must be handed into the school office upon arrival and collected at the end of the school day to ensure all communication during school hours is managed through official school channels.

4. Enforcement and Consequences

- **Staff** are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and will address any breaches in a supportive and respectful manner.
- **Parents and visitors** who do not adhere to this policy will be reminded of expectations and, if necessary, may be asked to leave the premises to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the school community.
- **Pupils** who bring unauthorised devices to school will be reminded of our policy and why it exists. If the device is brought again, it will be confiscated and a restorative conversation will take place involving the pupil and their parents to reinforce expectations and support good decision-making. Persistent non-compliance will be seen as difficult/ dangerous behaviour (see school's Behaviour Policy).

5. Conclusion

By implementing this policy, Aston Clinton Primary School seeks to create a safe, distraction-free, and socially engaging environment for our pupils. We appreciate the support of staff, parents, and visitors in maintaining a school culture that prioritises children's well-being and development.

For any questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.