



# Mobile Phone Policy

<b>Audience:</b>	School and academy staff, Local Governance Committees
<b>Reviewed:</b> <b>Approved:</b> <b>Effective From:</b>	DoE February 2026 Board 10 February 2026 10 February 2026
<b>Other related policies / procedures</b>	Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Equality Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Positive Behaviour Management Policy E-Safety Policy PREVENT Strategy & Duty Guidance HM Gov Keeping Children Safe in Education Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov 2018 (updated July 22) Intimate Care Policy
<b>Owner</b>	Crofty Safeguarding Lead
<b>Policy / procedure model</b>	Trust policy: all Crofty schools use this policy Aligned: Policy to be adapted to school where indicated School policy: specific to needs of the school
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	Spring 2029

## Policy Change Log

Date	Change	Version Updated	New Version
11/2/26	Contents Page and paragraph numbers added. Section 6.7 clarified 'muted on silent'. Section 8.1 - 8.4 added.	2024-27 V1	2026-29 V1

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**Definition:** for the purposes of this policy reference to mobile phones includes other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (eg the ability to send/ receive notifications or messages to the ability to record audio and/or video).

### 1. Aim

1.1 All Crofty Schools are committed to ensuring the safety of children in its care. We recognise the importance of mobile phones in school for communication purposes but are aware that casual or inappropriate use of mobile phones in the School could pose a risk to children.

1.2 The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to promote safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable use guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools - which in turn can contribute to safeguarding practice and protection.

### 2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all staff, governors, children, young people, parents/carers, community users and volunteers. This list is not exhaustive and covers both indoor and outdoor areas. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action.

### 3. Policy statement

3.1 It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, and which are most susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying.

3.2 It is also recognised that mobile phones can cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and can be intrusive when used in the company of others.

3.3 When mobile phones are misused, it can impact an individual's dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not exclusive to children and young people; hence there is a duty to protect the needs and vulnerabilities of all.

3.4 It is appreciated that it can be very difficult to detect when such devices are present or being used. The use of all mobile phones is therefore limited, regardless of their capabilities. The aim is to avoid distraction and disruption of the working day, and to minimise the opportunities for any individual to make any covert images or misuse functions in any other way.

3.5 Designated 'mobile free' areas within the setting are

3.5.1 Changing areas

3.5.2 toilets

3.6 A zero-tolerance policy is in place with regards to the use of personal or work-related mobiles by any individual in these areas.

## **4. Procedures**

## **5. Personal mobiles**

5.1 In the interests of equality, and to further promote safety, the guidance applies to any individual who has a mobile phone on site, including children, contractors, parents and visitors, as detailed below.

## **6. Practitioners**

6.1 Staff are permitted to have their mobile phones about their person on silent; however, there is a clear expectation that all personal use is limited to allocated lunch and/or tea breaks.

6.2 Mobile phones should not be used in the presence of pupils even if this is within a staff break time; the staff room, offices, classroom cupboards or the school reception are all suitable places to make and receive calls during a break if there are no children present.

6.3 Practitioners are not permitted, in any circumstance, to use their phones for taking, recording or sharing images and 'mobile free' areas must be observed at all times.

6.4 Practitioners are ONLY permitted to use their own personal phones for contacting parents and carers within or outside of the setting for the purposes of school related work e.g. parent/teacher meetings by phone, COVID wellbeing calls etc. When making the call the staff member will ensure their own personal number is withheld and not disclosed.

6.5 If staff have a break time during their working hours, they may use their mobile phones during these times, in an agreed area not used by children e.g. in the office / staff room.

6.6 Staff must give the school telephone number to their next of kin, in case it is necessary for the staff member to be contacted, in an emergency, during session hours

6.7 Other than in agreed exceptional circumstances, phones must be muted (on silent) and calls and texts must not be taken or made during lesson time.

6.8 A mobile phone will be taken on whole-group outings in accordance with guidance. The Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage states that providers should take contact telephone numbers and a mobile phone on outings. Where a school mobile phone is available this should be taken rather than the member of staff's personal phone for school use.

## 7. School Trips and Visits

7.1 Staff are permitted to use their personal phones to make and receive calls to the school or emergency services in the event of an emergency.

7.2 Contact with parents of pupils should ideally be made through the school, direct contact should be avoided unless it has not been possible to contact the school and it is an emergency.

## 8. Children

8.1 Crofty adhere to the DfE guidance for [Mobile phones in Schools](#).

8.2 Children may bring mobile phones into school in circumstances agreed with the class teacher.

8.3 The child's phone will be held by the class teacher during the school day and given back at the end of the school day as the child leaves.

8.4 The school will accept no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, a mobile phone.

The following statement is within our school behaviour policies:

### **Mobile Phones**

*We recognise that, in preparation for the transition to secondary school, some parents may wish their older primary-aged child to bring a mobile phone to school so they can be contacted at the end of the day, particularly if the child is beginning to walk home independently. In line with the Department for Education's Mobile Phones in Schools guidance (January 2026), children may only bring a mobile phone (or other technology with similar functionality, including smart watches) to school in circumstances agreed in advance with the class teacher. Phones must be handed in at the start of the school day and returned as the child leaves. Mobile phones must not be used during the school day under any circumstances. The headteacher holds the final decision as to whether a child is permitted to bring a phone to school. The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage.*

8.5 Further information on searches for prohibited items and sanctions can be found within the school behaviour policy.

8.6 Further information on how our curriculum teaches children to be safe online can be found within the schools Safeguarding curriculum documentation.

## 9. Parents, visitors and contractors

9.1 The school will display a notice advising visitors and parents/carers that mobile phones are not to be used in the setting,

9.2 Parents/carers/visitors and contractors are respectfully requested not to use their mobile phones in any of the designated mobile free areas. Should phone calls and/or texts need to be taken or made, use is restricted to those areas not accessed by children in order to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or disruption to others.

9.3 Individuals are only permitted to take images or make recordings on a mobile phone where this has been previously registered – see Use of Images policy.

9.4 Any individual bringing a personal device into the setting must ensure that it contains no inappropriate or illegal content.

## **10. Driving**

10.1 If any practitioner is required to drive in a working capacity the school phone and/or their personal phone must be switched off whilst driving.

10.2 Under no circumstances should practitioners drive whilst taking a phone call. This also applies to hands free and wireless connections, which are considered a distraction rather than a safer alternative.

## **11. Safe storage**

11.1 A designated safe and secure area for practitioners to store their personal belongings during the working day is available. Practitioners have the **option** to store their mobile phones in this area, should they choose. This however is not a mandatory requirement.

11.2 Practitioners leave their belongings in safe storage at their own risk. It is therefore recommended that phones are security marked, password protected and insured. No liability for loss and damages is accepted.

11.3 As well as safeguarding children and avoiding any unnecessary disruptions during the day, this procedure also aims to protect staff against any unfounded allegations.

## **12. Emergency contact**

12.1 It is recognised that mobile phones provide direct contact to others, and at times provide a necessary reassurance due to their ease of access, particularly at stressful times.

12.2 Practitioners, therefore, in agreed exceptional circumstances are permitted to keep the volume of their phone switched on. This is to enhance their own well-being and peace of mind, to reduce stress and worry and to enable them to concentrate more effectively on their work.

12.3 Such use will be for an agreed limited period only, until any concerns or issues leading to the exceptional circumstance request have been resolved.

12.4 It is ensured at all times that the landline telephone remains connected and operational, except in circumstances beyond control. This means that it is available for emergency/urgent contact at all times.