

Rossett Acre Primary School



Mobile Phones and Smart Devices in School Policy

Member of staff responsible: Anna Ingle / Perveen Aslam

Date of Policy: September 2026

Next Review Date: September 2028

Introduction

At Rossett Acre the well-being, safeguarding, learning and social development of our pupils are our highest priorities. We are committed to providing a safe, secure, and distraction-free learning environment. We strongly believe that primary-aged children benefit from face-to-face interaction, active play and engagement in learning without the distraction and risks associated with personal mobile phones and smart devices both in and out of school.

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance [*Mobile Phones in Schools*](#) (effective from 29 June 2026 and implemented from 1 September 2026), the school operates as a **mobile phone-free environment**. Pupils must not have access to mobile phones or similar smart devices at any point during the school day, including before or after school clubs and are not permitted to use mobile phones anywhere within the school building or on the school grounds at any time.

Phones for walking to and from school

We appreciate that some parents of children in Years 5 and 6 who walk to and from school independently may choose to provide their child with a mobile phone. If this is the case, then-

- the phone must be switched off and put away before entering the school grounds;
- it must be handed directly to the class teacher immediately on arrival;
- it will remain securely stored by the school throughout the day; and
- it should be collected from the class teacher at the end of the school day.

Parents are encouraged not to send mobile phones into school unless it is absolutely essential for the journey to and from school. Parents and carers who need to pass a message to their child during the school day should contact the school office.

Smart Watches and Other Devices

Smart watches and other technology that are capable of making or receiving phone calls, sending or receiving messages, accessing the internet, taking photographs, recording audio or video, or playing games are not permitted in school. If such a device is brought onto the school site, it will be confiscated and returned to the child at the end of the day and parents will be informed. Traditional watches that tell the time only are permitted.

Failure to Follow the Policy

If a pupil is found with a mobile phone or prohibited smart device during the school day, or is using such a device on the school site, the device will be confiscated immediately and taken to the school office / class teacher for safekeeping.

For a first incident, the device will normally be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed where appropriate.

Repeated breaches of this policy may result in parents or carers being required to collect the device from school and further sanctions being applied in line with the school's [Relational Behaviour Policy](#).

Loss, Damage or Theft

Whilst the school will take reasonable care when storing devices handed in during the school day, pupils bringing personal devices onto school premises do so at their own risk. School accepts no responsibility for loss of, theft of, or damage to mobile phones, smart watches or other electronic devices brought onto the school site.

Safeguarding

Mobile phones and smart devices have the potential to create safeguarding risks, including cyberbullying, inappropriate online communication, unauthorised photography or recording, and access to harmful or unsuitable online content. This policy supports the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities by reducing these risks and promoting positive face-to-face relationships throughout the school day.

Where there are concerns or allegations relating to youth-produced sexual imagery (sometimes referred to as 'sexting' or 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes'), these must always be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The school will respond in accordance with its Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, national guidance and statutory procedures, making referrals to Children's Social Care and the Police where appropriate.

Searching Pupils

Government guidance states that Headteachers, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as set out in legislation^[footnote 1] or any item identified in the school rules as an item that may be searched for. This includes mobile phones which are not handed in as part of this policy. If staff believe that children have not handed in a mobile phone, they can search the student's possessions in line with the [searching, screening and confiscation in schools guidance](#) regarding searching a pupil.

Searching Electronic Devices' Content

Electronic devices, including mobile phones, can contain files or data which relate to an offence, or which may cause harm to another person. This includes, but is not limited to, indecent images of children, pornography, abusive messages, images or videos, or evidence relating to suspected criminal behaviour. In line with Government guidance, staff may examine any data or files on an electronic device they have confiscated as a result of a search if there is good reason to do so. If the member of staff conducting the search suspects they may find an indecent image of a child (sometimes known as nude or semi-nude images), the member of staff should never intentionally view the image, and must never copy, print, share, store or save such images. When an incident might involve an indecent image of a child and/or video, the member

of staff should confiscate the device, avoid looking at the device and refer the incident to the designated safeguarding lead. Staff handling such reports or concerns will follow the principles as set out in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Support the school's phone-free environment.
- Reinforce the importance of using technology responsibly
- Consider delaying the purchase or regular use of mobile phones and smart devices until they are older.
- Ensure that any device is free from social media applications.
- Ensure any device brought in to school is handed in as required.

Useful Links:

[UK Council for Internet Safety - GOV.UK](#)

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

[Rossett Acre Relational Behaviour Policy](#)

[Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)