



FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Date Published	September 2026
Review Due	September 2028
Author	Principal

Approval Level	☐ Governing Body ☒ Principal to Determine
Signed	
Role	Principal
Date Approved	

See also the Grievance Policy, the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy and the document entitled Staff Protection / Child Protection.

Farney Close School acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. This knowledge has informed the writing of this policy.

Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Devices Policy

1. Core Principle

Our school is a **phone-free zone** during the school day. This policy ensures an environment focused entirely on learning, face-to-face social interaction, and safety.

This refers to day pupils each day and residential pupils throughout their week in school.

2. The "Gate-to-Gate" System

- **Arrival:** Pupils must turn off their mobile phones before entering the school gates.
- **Hand-In:** Upon arrival at their registration room, pupils must hand their powered-down phones to the staff members who they initially see as they arrive at school.
- **Storage:** Devices are securely locked away in designated storage units during the day.
- **Departure:** Phones are returned to pupils as they leave to get their transport home.
- **Rules:** Devices must remain switched off until pupils exit the school gates.

3. Scope and Covered Devices

This policy applies to all pupils while they are on the school premises. Covered devices include:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches with cellular capabilities
- Tablets and portable gaming consoles
- Personal music players and headphones

4. Exemptions and Special Circumstances

Exceptions will only be granted for verified medical or accessibility needs (e.g., blood glucose monitoring for diabetes).

- Parents must submit a formal request with supporting medical documentation to the Principal.
- Approved devices will be clearly logged, and their use will be strictly restricted to medical monitoring.

5. Non-Compliance and Sanctions

Failure to hand in a mobile phone constitutes a breach of school rules.

- **First Offence:** The phone will be confiscated, held in the main office, and returned to the pupil at the end of the day.
- **Second Offence:** The phone will be confiscated, and a parent or guardian must come to the school reception to collect it.
- **Repeated Offence:** The pupil will lose the privilege of bringing a phone onto school grounds.
- **Refusal to Comply:** Refusing to hand over a device is treated as serious insubordination and dealt with under the behaviour policy.

6. Emergency Communication

- **Parents to Pupils:** Parents must call the **Main School Office** for any urgent messages. Staff will ensure emergencies are communicated to the pupil immediately.
- **Pupils to Parents:** Pupils may request permission to use the school landline during break or lunch to call home.

7. School Liability

The school provides secure storage for handed-in devices. However, pupils bring mobile phones to school entirely at their own risk. The school accepts no liability for loss, theft, or damage to personal electronic devices.