Pupil Mobile Device Policy

Autumn Term 2026

Statement

Elloughton Primary has established the following policy for mobile devices, in accordance with the Department for Education guidance, that provides teachers, pupils and parents with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile devices in school. The policy for mobile devices applies to pupils across school, during the school day and during school extracurricular activities which take place outside of school hours and when supervised by school staff.

We don't consider it necessary for children to have mobile devices in school. However, we do recognise that some parents prefer children to have them when walking on their own to and from school. In exceptional circumstances some pupils may require a device for a medical reason E.g. diabetes monitoring device.

Purpose

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'mobile devices' refers to mobile phones, audio/music devices, headphones, iPads, tracking devices, gaming devices and similar devices. The use of 'Smart' devices which connect to mobile phones are not permitted in school e.g. Smart watches.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to decide if devices are necessary for safety on the journey to and from school. The decision whether or not to provide a mobile device to children should be made by parents/carers.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices. All mobile devices brought to school are done so with prior agreement. Prior to the child attending school with their device, parents/carers must complete the Agreement Form.

See Appendix 1.

Definition of tracking devices

In accordance with Local Authority advice and for the purpose of this policy, "tracking devices" include:

- Apple AirTags
- Tile trackers
- Smart tags (Bluetooth, GPS, or similar)
- Smartwatches or devices with location-tracking enabled
- Any technology intended to track the location of a person or their belongings

To protect pupil privacy, reduce safeguarding risks, and prevent disruption to learning, t**racking devices are not permitted in school or on school trips**. They are designed to help people locate their personal belongings not to track people or another person's property.

This includes placing tracking devices:

- On a child

- In their bag, coat, or personal items
- In lunchboxes or pencil cases
- Inside clothing or accessories
- On items brought on trips or residential visits

Tracking Devices are not permitted for the following reasons.

a) Safeguarding and Privacy

- Tracking devices may unintentionally collect information about the location of other pupils or staff.
- Alerts from tracking devices (e.g., "an unknown AirTag is moving with you") can cause distress or confusion.

b) Security

- If found, staff cannot always identify the device owner.
- Devices may be misused to track children without proper consent.

c) Disruption to Learning

- AirTags and similar devices can emit noise, causing unnecessary disruption in classrooms or on trips.

d) Health and Safety

- Some devices contain small lithium button batteries, which pose a **choking or ingestion hazard** if removed or damaged.

e) Responsibility

- The school is responsible for pupil safety during the school day and on trips; external tracking does not replace school safeguarding procedures. We have strong safeguarding measures in place during the day and on trips.

Systems and processes

Before entering the school site, pupils must turn their mobile device off and ensure it is in a bag or pocket on entering the classroom and must hand them in to the relevant member

of staff in the classroom to be stored for the duration of the school day. Once given back at the end of the day, pupils should put their mobile device in their bag or pocket and should not turn their device on until they have left the school site.

For emergency reasons, parents/carers are reminded that the first point of contact for your child in an emergency should be the school office, so that staff can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted appropriately.

We keep a register of all pupils who are allowed a mobile device in school. If a child has a mobile device in school without parental permission received, the device will be taken to the school office for safe keeping. Parents will then be contacted and asked to collect the device.

For safeguarding reasons pupils must not bring or wear any tracking devices on school premises or school organised activities.

Devices in bags or around school

Pupils are not permitted to keep devices in their bags, pockets or on their person during the school day.

The school reserves the right to carry out bag checks where staff reasonably believe a pupil is in possession of a device (please refer to the Searching, Screening and Confiscation section).

Breaches of the policy

If a child is found to have a mobile device in their possession during the school day:

1. The device will be confiscated immediately and stored securely
2. Parents/guardians will be required to collect the device from the school office
3. A record of the incident will be made in line with the Behaviour Policy and if deemed necessary a sanction will be given.

Searching, screening and confiscation

The headteacher and authorised staff have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a prohibited item, including a mobile device in line with DfE guidance Searching, Screening and Confiscation in Schools July 2022.

Staff are protected in law from liability for loss or damage to confiscated items provided actions are lawful and proportionate.

Reasonable adjustments

We recognise that some pupils may require access to a mobile device for:

- Medical needs (e.g. diabetes monitoring apps)
- Disability-related adjustments
- Exceptional personal circumstances (e.g. young carers)

Any adjustments will be:

- Agreed in advance
- Recorded formally
- Limited to specific times, locations or purposes

Where reasonable adjustments are agreed between the school and pupils, their use of mobile devises must sill be in line with the behaviour policy.

Parents and carers

Parents play an essential role in supporting this policy.

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure their child hands in their device on arrival
- Mobile devices should be clearly labelled with the pupil's name
- Contact the school office (not their child) if a message must be relayed during the day
- Support the school in reinforcing the benefits of a mobile-free environment

Trips and residentials

Children are not permitted to take mobile phones, smart watches or any mobile devices on a school trip including day visits and residential. This ensures that all pupils remain safe, focused and fully engaged in the educational experience.

If contact with a child's parent or carer is required during a trip or residential, school staff will initiate this communication using approved school systems.

School and FESA events

At school and FESA events expectations regarding mobile devices may vary depending on the nature of the event:

- Any specific rules or expectations will be clearly communicated to pupils ahead of each event
- Children must follow the instructions provided by staff for the safety and enjoyment of all
- Where mobile devices are not permitted, the same procedures for handing in and collecting devices apply.

Monitoring and review

The use of pupil mobile devices is monitored by senior leaders to ensure safety, safeguarding, and a focused learning environment for all pupils, including those with SEND and those eligible for Pupil Premium. Incidents, staff observations, and pupil feedback are reviewed to evaluate impact and inform practice. This policy is reviewed every three years or sooner if required.

Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	**Mrs Fulstow**
On behalf of	Full Governing Body
Date	Autumn Term 2026

Document Control

Policy	**Pupil Mobile Device Policy**
Revision number	**1**
Review frequency	3 years
Next review date	Autumn Term 2029
Type or status	Policy
Statutory?	Yes

Appendix 1

Elloughton Primary Mobile Device Agreement Form

I wish for my child to bring their mobile device (e.g. mobile phone) to school.

Name of Child: _____**Class:**_____

The purpose of my child bringing their mobile device to school is (please tick the relevant reason below):

☐ For their journey to and from school (Y5 and 6 only)

☐ As part of their Individual Health and Care Plan (e.g. diabetes monitoring device)

☐ Other reason: …… (please specify)

Children will be allowed to bring mobile devices into school at the headteacher's discretion. Details of the school's expectations with regard to pupils' personal mobile devices can be read in the policy for use of personal mobile devices on the school site.

☐ I have read and accept the terms outlined in the school's Mobile Device Policy:

☐ I understand that the school accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to my child's mobile device.

Name of Parent / Carer: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer:_____

Date: _____