

**Ingatestone Infant School and Ingatestone and Fryerning Church of England Junior School**  
**Mobile Phone and Portable Devices Policy**  
*Effective from September 2025*

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## **1. Policy Rationale**

At Ingatestone Infant School and Ingatestone and Fryerning C of E Junior School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all pupils. Increasingly, the use of smartphones among young people is having a detrimental impact on mental health, sleep, attention, and overall development. Research and experience have identified the following concerns associated with smartphone use in school-aged children:

- Increased rates of anxiety and depression
- Sleep disruption and reduced attention span
- Risk of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful or inappropriate content
- Patterns of use consistent with behavioural addiction
- Reduced engagement with learning and important life skills

Considering these concerns, and in line with our commitment to creating a safe and focused learning environment, the following policy outlines the permitted use of mobile phones and portable devices on school premises.

The following short video encapsulates some of our reasons:

[A STOLEN CHILDHOOD - SFC VERSION.mov - Google Drive](#)

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## **2. General Guidelines**

### **Reception – Year 5**

- **Mobile phones and portable devices are not permitted** on school premises under any circumstances.

### **Year 6 (Independent Travellers)**

Parents who wish for their child to bring a mobile phone for safety reasons (e.g., walking to and from school independently) must comply with the following:

#### **Permitted Phone Models**

Only the following basic mobile phone models are permitted:

- Nokia 105
- Samsung E1200
- Alcatel 10.16G
- Or another similar non-smartphone device approved in advance by the school

**Smartphones are not allowed under any circumstances.** Any device not pre-approved will be considered a **prohibited phone**.

Parents will be required to sign a permission and agreement form in respect of this policy, which can be collected from the office.

### **Medical Exceptions**

Where a mobile device is necessary for managing a diagnosed medical condition, exemptions to this policy may be granted. In such cases, the phone must:

- Be securely configured to restrict access to applications, internet browsers, and social media
  - Be approved by the school's leadership team
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### **3. Conditions for Approved Phone Use**

- Phones must be **clearly labelled** with the student's name
  - Phones must be **switched off** and **handed in at the school reception** immediately upon arrival
  - Phones may only be used **after school** and **away from school entrances**
  - The phone remains the **sole responsibility of the student**, and the school cannot accept liability for loss, theft, or damage
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### **4. Confiscation and Searches**

- Staff may conduct searches for mobile phones in accordance with **Department for Education (DfE) guidance** on searching and screening
- Any mobile phone discovered during a search, or used in breach of this policy, will be **confiscated immediately**

#### **Procedure for Confiscated Phones**

- Approved phones will be securely stored at the school office and returned to the child at the end of the school day.
  - Prohibited phones will be securely stored and **returned to a parent who will need to collect from the school office.**
  - Parents will be notified in all instances of phone confiscation.
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### **5. Review and Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be updated to reflect emerging risks, technological changes, and school community feedback.