

Mobile Phone Policy

Last Review Date:	Sept 2026
Next Review Date:	Sept 2027
Reviewed By:	Mr Lee Murley Headteacher

New Horizons Seaside Primary fosters a 'culture of safety' in which the children and staff are protected from abuse, harm, and distress. We therefore have a clear policy on mobile phones that is understood and adhered to by everyone: pupils, staff and parents.

Abiding by the terms of the mobile phone policy ensures that we all:

- Protect children from harm and abuse.
- Prevent staff from being subject to false allegations.
- Help staff remain focused on the care of children.
- Work in an open and transparent environment.

Pupils and Mobile Phones: Year R to Year 5

No pupil from Year R to Year 5 is allowed to bring any type of phone onto the school premises for any reason.

The only exception to this is for devices which are set up to monitor a diagnosed medical condition such as diabetes. Arrangements would be managed through communication with the Headteacher.

Pupils and Mobile Phones: Year 6 – Brick Phones – NO Smartphones

At New Horizons Seaside Primary, we took the step in September 2025 of becoming a Smartphone-Free School. We took this step because of the ever-increasing rise in the number of issues relating to children at Seaside Primary and their Smartphones. These included:

- Children sending bullying messages on WhatsApp and Instagram outside of school hours
- Children sharing videos of other pupils to humiliate them, taken on the way to or from school
- Children sharing inappropriate / sexually explicit images found online on the way to and from school
- Children sharing inappropriate / sexually explicit photos *of themselves*
- Children watching age-inappropriate films including horror films
- Children accessing and viewing pornography

The number of incidences of the above issues has dropped dramatically since becoming a Smartphone-Free School.

In Year 6 we do allow children to bring in 'a brick phone' or non-Smartphone alternative. This is because Year 6 is the only year group in which children are allowed to walk to school and home alone, to help develop their independence and responsibility and to prepare them for Year 7 at secondary school. Please follow the link below to see the types of phones we allow Year 6 children to bring to Seaside:

'Brick phones' are devices which can:

- Make calls
- Send texts
- Cannot access the internet, apps, games, music, cameras, or social media.

These phones may be brought in by Year 6 pupils under the following conditions, which apply to ALL children:

- Your child's phone is NOT a Smartphone
- Your child's phone must be switched off before entering the school premises
- Your child's phone must be handed in to class teachers first thing at the start of the day
- Your child's phone will only be given out just before home-time

Sanctions:

Any child in Year 6 who brings in a Smartphone will have this confiscated. Parents and Carers will need to collect this from the Headteacher in person. This may not be on the day on which the phone was confiscated. This is at the Headteacher's discretion.

The same applies to any child who brings in any type of phone in any year group below Year 6.

The same applies to any child who switches on their phone while on the school premises.

Any Parent or Carer knowingly allowing their child to bring in a Smartphone will be aware that Smartphones are prohibited items at New Horizons Seaside Primary and that their child will be subject to suspension and ultimately exclusion. It is deemed necessary for the safety and wellbeing of ALL members of the Seaside community.

Smartphone-Free Childhood:

Parents and Carers may of course choose not to get one of the alternatives to a Smartphone and simply allow their child to walk home without any type of phone or come to collect their child from the double doors into the Large Hall at the end of the day.

We recommend ALL parents visit the Smartphone Free Childhood website to find out more about the issues of children having Smartphones and to sign the online pact, which asks that your child does not have a Smartphone until they are in Year 9.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

We also recommend ALL parents read the book 'The Anxious Generation' by Jonathan Haidt for a clear overview of the impact of a 'Phone-Based Childhood' on your child's mental health.

Pupils and Smartwatches

Smartwatches are allowed at Seaside Primary under the following conditions:

- Smartwatches with cellular data are NOT permitted.
- Smartwatches with cameras are NOT permitted.
- Mobile phones linked to Smartwatches MUST be turned off.

Staff and Mobile Phones

Personal mobile phones belonging to members of staff should be stored away with personal belongings during working hours to ensure staff remain focused on the care of children.

These can be checked and used during break and lunch times only.

The only exception is if the phone is being directly used to monitor work-related updates, such as supply coverage, confirmation of arrival and departure times for trips etc. This is not likely to apply to Class Teachers or Teaching Assistants during normal lesson time.

On trips and residential visits, mobile phones are used as needed to ensure communication between the staff.

If a member of staff needs to make an urgent personal call, they can make a personal call from their mobile, in a suitable location.

If a member of staff has a family emergency or similar and needs to keep their mobile phone to hand, prior permission must be sought from a member of SLT.

If mobile phones are used to take lesson/activity photos, these must be deleted from personal mobile phones before leaving the building/end of day/session.

Parents, Carers and Visitors and Mobile Phones

On the school premises, Parents and Carers may use their phones to take pictures and videos during year group performances of their child and the other children performing or on Sports Day events. This is with the strict understanding that NO pictures or videos are shared in any form online or on any social media platforms including:

- X – Twitter
- Facebook – Meta
- Instagram
- TikTok
- YouTube
- Tumblr
- Personal blogs and websites

If images or videos are posted online of any child who is under Child Protection, this could have serious repercussions. Therefore, if trust relating to not posting photos and videos is broken, then New Horizons Seaside Primary will have to review allowing Parents and Carers to use their mobile phones on the school premises.