

Stanway Primary School

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Dear Year 5/6 Parents and Carers,

Please read the information below carefully.

Pupil Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only...schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example, the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

**DFE Statutory guidance
Updated 29 June 2026**

As a general rule, pupil mobile phones are **not allowed** on site at Stanway Primary School. We strongly discourage parents from sending their children in with mobile phones as we feel that children of primary age are not old enough to be fully responsible for their safe use. We also know that the use of mobile phones can be damaging to children's mental health, particularly if they start to use these at a young age.

Phones can be a means of bullying or intimidating others – we have seen this firsthand through many children being involved in large WhatsApp groups where strings of abusive messages have been sent to other children. We have also experienced children taking photos of other children and posting or sending without permission and with intent to offend. These incidents have caused great distress and disruption to learning.

We also know that the use of smartphones by children means that they have:

- Less face-to-face time with friends;
- Less sleep, especially from late-night scrolling;
- More distraction, making it harder to focus;
- More addictive design, keeping children online longer than intended.

Pupil Mobile Phones on the School Site

We urge parents to think very carefully about whether or not allowing your child to bring their phone into school is appropriate. Better still, we ask parents to consider not buying your child a phone until they are of secondary school age.

Phones will only be stored in school from pupils in year 5 and 6 who are walking to or from school without a parent can bring their phones in to school **where a parent feels it is absolutely essential for them to do so.**

Pupil's Code of Conduct for Mobile Phones

If you wish for your child to bring a mobile phone into school, the following Code of Conduct must be signed by both parent and pupil. We reserve the right to revoke permission to bring a phone into school, should any of these criteria be breached in any way. This would mean in practice that your child's phone would be confiscated and you would need to pick the phone up from school. Your child would then not be able to bring their phone on site again for a fixed period of time or indefinitely.

1. Mobile phones must be switched off (not just put on 'silent') when entering the site and handed to the class teacher on arrival to the classroom.
2. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used during lessons or in any other part of the school grounds.
3. Photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils are strictly prohibited on site.
4. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
5. Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
 - Email
 - Text/messaging app
 - Phone camera
 - Social media
6. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone **even when you aren't in school.**
7. Do not use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour policy.
8. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or hand over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly. If it is suspected that there is content on your child's phone which is in breach of this policy, we will ask for you to make a search of your child's phone in the presence of the headteacher or deputy headteachers.
9. The school does not take responsibility for any loss or damage to the phone while it is in school.

10. Phones are not permitted to be taken on school trips/visits.

If a phone is bought in without prior permission, it will be confiscated. Parents will need to pick it up from the School Office as soon as possible.

Permission form allowing a pupil to bring their phone to school

PUPIL DETAILS	
Pupil name:	
Year group/class:	
Parent/carer(s) name(s):	

The school has agreed to allow the above-named pupil to bring their mobile phone to school because they walk to and from school without a parent or adult and their parent has deemed it necessary for them to carry a phone for this purpose.

I agree to abide by the school's mobile phone code of conduct/acceptable use agreement at all times and recognise that the school reserves the right revoke permission and confiscate my child's phone should my child not abide by this policy.

In this case, I will pick up my child's phone from the school office and abide by their decision as to the duration of the time that my child is not permitted to bring a phone onto the school site.

Parent/carer signature: _____

Pupil signature: _____

Date: _____

Smart Watches and Other Digital Equipment

Watches which allow texting or messaging, have the ability to receive calls or take pictures are not allowed on the school site under any circumstances. This also applies to digital recording equipment e.g. GoPro or any digital cameras. They will be confiscated immediately.