



**BRADGATE**  
Education Partnership

Stronger Together



**Mercenfeld  
Primary  
School**

**POLICY:**

# Mobile Phone Policy

Approved: March 2026  
Review Date: Feb 2027  
Responsible Officer: Deputy CEO

Ambitious  
Collaborative  
Ethical



**BRADGATE**  
Education Partnership

## MISSION:

Through strong collaboration between our schools, Bradgate Education Partnership is committed to providing an ambitious and inclusive education for all.

We want our children and young people to realise their full potential academically, socially and personally. We celebrate the distinctive ethos of each individual school. We ensure that all who are part of our Trust have a deep sense of belonging and a supportive opportunity to grow.



## Stronger Together



## VALUES:



### Ambitious

We aim high and are aspirational for all.



### Collaborative

We work closely together to encourage, support, challenge and share.



### Ethical

We treat everyone fairly, within a culture of kindness and respect.

## VISION:



### PUPILS

All our pupils are equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to thrive in life and make a positive difference.



### SCHOOLS

All our schools provide a safe and happy space where pupils study an ambitious curriculum which unlocks their personal potential so that they achieve exceptional outcomes.



### WORKFORCE

All staff have positive impact in their roles whilst feeling supported and valued both personally and professionally.



### COMMUNITY

All our schools embrace the local area they serve within a deeply embedded culture of community partnership.



### WIDER WORLD

All our pupils and staff understand, respect and embrace the diversity of the wider world in which they live.



### SUSTAINABILITY

Across our partnership, everything we do is aligned to meet the needs of the present without compromising a sustainable future.

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## **1. Policy Statement**

The Bradgate Education Partnership (BEP) is committed to creating and sustaining mobile phone-free environments across all Trust schools, ensuring that learning, wellbeing and safeguarding remain paramount. This policy aligns with Department for Education expectations (January 2026) and Ofsted inspection requirements from April 2026, which emphasise clarity, consistency and effective enforcement of mobile phone rules.

## **2. Rationale and Evidence Base**

Research demonstrates significant risks associated with early and excessive smartphone use, including reduced attention, increased anxiety, sleep disruption and heightened exposure to online pressures. Evidence also shows that removing phones from the school day improves behaviour, focus and social interaction. These findings underpin BEP's Trust-wide approach to creating phone-free schools.

## **3. Scope of Policy**

This Trust-wide policy applies to all pupils across all BEP school sites during the entire school day, including arrival, lessons, breaks, transitions, clubs, and extracurricular activities unless specific written exemptions apply.

## **4. Definitions**

- Mobile phones: Any device capable of communication, internet access or media capture.
- Smart devices: Smartwatches with cellular or messaging capabilities, wireless earbuds and similar items.
- School day: From arrival on school grounds until leaving the site, including all structured and unstructured periods.

## **5. Core Expectations for Pupils**

- No mobile phones or smart devices may be used, seen or heard anywhere on site.
- Devices must be handed in when entering the classroom. These will be collected in the class basket and brought up to the school office for the duration of the day. The baskets will then be collected at the end of the day and the phones given back. Mobile phones are allowed for Year 6 children and only for Year 5 children who the school have received permission from parents to walk home. No mobile phones are allowed for any other year group.
- Pupils must not send or receive calls/messages during the school day. All urgent communication must go via the school office



## **6. Prohibited Devices**

The following items are not permitted unless formally authorised: smartphones, cellular-enabled smartwatches, wireless earbuds and any device capable of bypassing phone-free expectations.

## **7. Permitted Exceptions**

Exceptions may be granted for: documented medical needs; SEND requirements; individual safeguarding circumstances. All exceptions require a written agreement and clear usage parameters jointly established with school leaders and families.

## **8. Enforcement and Consequences**

- First breach: Device confiscated until the end of the school day.
- Repeated breaches: Parent/carer collection, individual behaviour plan and/or enhanced monitoring.
- Serious or persistent non-compliance: Sanctions aligned with the school's behaviour policy.

## **9. Parent and Carer Partnership**

BEP operates a Parent Mobile Phone Pledge, promoting delay of smartphone access and social media access. Parents/carers agree to support the policy, avoid contacting children during the school day, model healthy device habits and remain aware of digital wellbeing risks.

## **10. Staff Responsibilities**

Staff must model appropriate use of technology, enforce this policy consistently, undertake digital safeguarding training and report device-related concerns promptly.

## **11. Pupil Education and Curriculum**

The Trust provides digital wellbeing and online safety education through KS2-KS4 modules, assemblies, induction and pupil voice activities, focusing on attention, sleep, persuasive technology and healthy digital habits.

## **12. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability**

Each school completes termly audits and reports to the Trust Board, evaluating compliance, incidents, wellbeing indicators and policy impact. A named Trustee oversees implementation to ensure consistency across BEP.



### **13. Communication Strategy**

The policy will be communicated via school websites, staff briefings, parent events, pupil induction and visible signage (e.g., 'Mobile Phone Free Zone').

### **14. Review and Governance**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to changes in national guidance, Ofsted requirements or emerging research on digital wellbeing.