



**ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

MISSION STATEMENT

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full - John 10:10

As a Catholic school, God is at the heart of all we do. We believe that each person is made in His image, deserving to be treated with respect and dignity.

Showing respect, love and care for everyone and everything, we aim to develop harmony between pupils, parents, the school and Parish and grow as a Christian community.

We aim to embed the virtues in every child to believe in themselves to be the best that they can be and leave school as well-rounded individuals who care about themselves, others, and the world.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Relationships and Behaviour Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and the RSHE Policy.

Date drafted: February 2026

Date ratified by the Local Governing Committee: February 2026

Date for review by Staff and Governors: February 2027

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the expectations for pupils, staff, and parents regarding mobile phones and similar smart devices at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

It aims to:

- Create a **calm, safe and distraction-free environment** that promotes effective learning.
- Protect pupils from **online risks, bullying, and exposure to inappropriate content**.
- Support the school's wider **Relationships and behaviour Policy** and **Safeguarding Policy**.
- Provide clarity and consistency for the school community in line with the **Department for Education (DfE) guidance** on prohibiting mobile phone use in schools (2024).

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All areas of the school grounds during the school day, including before and after lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- Other devices with communication or recording capability (e.g., smartwatches, tablets).

3. Policy Statement

In line with DfE expectations, **pupils are not permitted to use or access mobile phones at any point during the school day**.

The presence or use of mobile phones can distract learning, disrupt social interaction, and create safeguarding concerns. Ensuring the school is a **"mobile phone-free environment"** helps all pupils focus and thrive.

4. Implementation

"Hand In on Arrival"

- Year 5 and 6 pupils may **bring a mobile phone to school** only if absolutely necessary (for example, safety when walking home). A permission slip must be completed for a child walking home and are allowed to bring in their phone for safety reasons.

- On arrival at school, the phone must be **switched off** and **handed to the class teacher or office** where it will be securely stored.
- The phone will be **returned at the end of the school day**.
- Pupils may not use, access, or carry their phones on their person during the day.

5. Pupils' Responsibilities

- Follow the school rule: **"No phones during the school day."**
- Bring a mobile phone only when parents/carers have given written permission and the headteacher has approved.
- Never use a phone to take photographs, record audio/video, or share media on school premises.
- Report to a staff member immediately if they see another pupil using a phone inappropriately or in breach of this policy.

6. Parents' Responsibilities

- Support the school's mobile phone-free expectations and discuss the reasons with their child.
- Contact the school office, not their child directly, during the school day if communication is needed.
- Ensure phones are age-appropriate, set with parental controls, and labelled clearly with the child's name if brought to school.
- Collect confiscated phones promptly if requested by the school.

7. Staff Responsibilities

- Model responsible use of technology (no non-work phone use in view of pupils).
- Enforce the policy consistently and fairly.
- Securely store phones handed in by pupils.
- Report repeated breaches to the Senior Leadership Team.
- Use professional judgement when applying reasonable adjustments (see below).

8. Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises there may be specific circumstances where pupils require access to a phone or communication device, for example:

- Medical needs or assistive technologies.
 - SEND or safeguarding considerations.
- In such cases, an **individual agreement** will be approved by the headteacher and documented.

9. Confiscation and Sanctions

- If a phone is seen, heard or used during the school day, **it will be confiscated.**
- Confiscated phones will be stored securely and returned either:
 - At the end of the school day (for first breaches), or
 - To a parent/carer after a arranged meeting (for repeated breaches).
- The school follows DfE and [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) guidance ensuring sanctions are **proportionate, fair, and consistent.**
- Staff are protected in law against liability for loss or damage when acting lawfully and reasonably.

10. Use of Mobile Phones Outside School

- Pupils may use their phones **only outside school hours and grounds.**
- The school encourages responsible use of devices, online safety awareness and respect for others' privacy as part of the **RSHE and Online Safety curriculum.**

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if government guidance changes.
- The headteacher will monitor implementation and effectiveness, with feedback from staff, governors, pupils and parents.