



Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Policy

At Churnet View Middle School, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and disruption-free learning environment where all pupils can thrive. In line with the statutory Mobile phones in schools guidance, the school operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. The use of mobile phones and other smart devices is prohibited during lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

1. Purpose

This policy exists to:

- Promote a positive learning environment free from unnecessary distractions.
- Safeguard pupils from risks associated with inappropriate technology use.
- Reduce incidents of cyberbullying and online conflict.
- Support pupils' wellbeing and social interaction.
- Ensure consistency across the school community.

2. Scope

For the purposes of this policy, "mobile phones and smart technology" includes:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smart watches
- Tablets with communication capabilities
- Earbuds connected to mobile devices
- Any device capable of:
 - Sending or receiving messages
 - Making or receiving calls
 - Taking photographs or videos
 - Recording audio
 - Accessing the internet
 - Receiving notifications

These devices are subject to the same restrictions throughout the school day.

3. Expectations for Pupils

3.1 Bringing a Mobile Phone to School

The school recognises that some pupils travel independently and may require a mobile phone for safety before and after school.

Pupils may bring a mobile phone to school provided that:

- It is switched off before entering the school site.
- It remains switched off for the entire school day.
- It is kept out of sight and securely stored in the pupil's school bag.

3.2 During the School Day

Pupils must not:

- Use a mobile phone.
- Check notifications.
- Send or receive messages.
- Make or receive calls.
- Listen to music.
- Access the internet.
- Take photographs or videos.
- Use a smart watch to communicate with others.

3.3 Contacting Home

If a parent/carer needs to contact a pupil during the school day, they should contact the school office.

If a pupil needs to speak to a parent/carer during the school day, arrangements will be made through a member of staff.

4. Educational Visits and School Activities

This policy applies to:

- School trips

- Educational visits
- Sporting fixtures
- Residential visits
- Extra-curricular activities

Any exception must be authorised by the trip leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

5. Safeguarding and Appropriate Use

Mobile phones and smart devices must never be used to:

- Photograph or record pupils, staff or visitors without permission.
- Share images, videos or recordings without consent.
- Bully, intimidate or harass others.
- Access or distribute inappropriate content.
- Arrange conflicts or unlawful activities.
- Circumvent school safeguarding systems.

Any incidents involving safeguarding concerns will be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and, where necessary, external agencies or the police.

6. Searches and Confiscation

In accordance with statutory guidance, authorised staff may confiscate a mobile phone or smart device where a pupil has breached this policy. Staff may also exercise their powers to search for prohibited items where there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Confiscated devices will be stored securely by the school until released in accordance with this policy.

7. Loss, Theft and Damage

Pupils bring mobile phones and smart devices to school entirely at their own risk.

The school accepts no responsibility for:

- Loss
- Theft
- Damage

Pupils are encouraged to ensure that devices are password protected and securely stored.

8. Reasonable Adjustments and Medical Needs

The school recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and its obligations to support pupils with medical conditions. Some pupils may require access to a mobile device as part of an agreed medical plan or reasonable adjustment.

Any exception must be:

- Agreed by the Headteacher or designated senior leader.
- Recorded formally.
- Reviewed regularly.

Access granted under these circumstances does not exempt a pupil from all other aspects of this policy.

9. Consequences for Breaching the Policy

The school adopts a clear and consistent approach to enforcing this policy.

First Incident

Where a mobile phone, smart watch or other prohibited smart device is seen, heard, accessed or used during the school day:

- The device will be confiscated immediately.
- A Stage 4 behaviour incident will be logged.
- Parents/carers will be informed.
- A parent/carer will be required to collect the device.
- The pupil will receive a half-day Internal Suspension.

Repeated Incident

Where a pupil commits a further breach of the policy:

- The device will be confiscated immediately.
- A Stage 4 behaviour incident will be logged.
- Parents/carers will be informed.
- A parent/carer will be required to collect the device.

- The pupil will receive a full-day Internal Suspension.

Continued or Persistent Incidents

Where a pupil continues to breach the policy despite previous sanctions:

- The matter will be escalated to Stage 5.
- An off-site direction or suspension may be issued.
- Parents/carers will be required to attend a formal meeting in school.
- A Pupil Support Plan will be implemented to establish clear expectations and support future compliance.
- Further sanctions may be applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Serious Misuse

The school reserves the right to escalate immediately to more serious sanctions where mobile phone misuse involves:

- Bullying or cyberbullying.
- Recording or photographing others without permission.
- Sharing inappropriate or harmful content.
- Safeguarding concerns.
- Actions that may constitute a criminal offence.

In such circumstances, the school may involve external agencies, including the police, where appropriate.

10. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting this policy.

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Reinforce the school's expectations at home.
- Avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day.
- Contact the school office if urgent communication is required.
- Support the school's sanctions where a breach occurs.

By choosing Churnet View Middle School, parents, carers and pupils agree to abide by the expectations set out in this policy.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Board, or sooner if changes in legislation, statutory guidance or local circumstances necessitate revision.