

Mobile Phone Policy 2026



School Name: Platt Bridge Community School

Address: Rivington Avenue, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5NG

Headteacher: Mr. Stephen Wallace

Policy Written By: Mr. Stephen Wallace

Date of Policy: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

1. Statutory Framework & Purpose

At Platt Bridge Community School, we are committed to providing a safe, calm, and focused learning environment for all pupils. In line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) **Mobile Phones in Schools (2026)** and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2026)**, our school operates as a **mobile phone-free environment**. This policy aims to eliminate learning distractions, protect pupil wellbeing, prevent cyberbullying, and ensure robust online safeguarding throughout the school day.

2. Pupil Rules & Expectations

Mobile Phone Reminder for Parents & Pupils

- **Walking Alone Only:** Children should only bring a phone to school if they are walking to and from school by themselves.
- **Switch Off:** Phones must be turned off as soon as children enter the school grounds.
- **Hand In:** Upon entering the building, children must take their phone directly to the school office and place it in the collection box.
- **End of Day:** Phones can be collected at home time and must remain switched off until leaving school grounds.
- **Confiscation:** Any phone found outside the office collection box will be confiscated. A parent or carer will need to collect it from the office at the end of the day.

3. Legal Authority, Searching & Confiscation

Under **Sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006**, school staff have the statutory authority to search for and confiscate mobile phones or electronic devices that breach school rules. Confiscated devices will be stored securely in the office until a parent or carer collects them. Where a device is suspected to contain illegal, harmful, or inappropriate content, searching and safeguarding procedures will be enacted in full accordance with DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance and KCSIE 2026.

4. Key Policy Directives & Special Provisions

Category	Policy Requirement & Directive
Smartwatches & Devices	Smartwatches with cellular, Wi-Fi, messaging, or camera capabilities are subject to the same prohibitions as mobile phones. Basic step trackers without connectivity are permitted.
Medical & SEND Exemptions	Adaptations (e.g., continuous glucose monitoring for diabetes) must be pre-approved by the Headteacher, supported by an individual risk assessment and formal storage plan.
Parent Communications	Parents requiring urgent contact with their child during the school day must call the main school office. Direct messages to pupil personal devices during school hours are prohibited.
Loss, Theft & Liability	Platt Bridge Community School accepts no financial or legal liability for personal devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged on school grounds or transport.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in keeping our school safe, focused, and distraction-free.