

Moorside Primary School



Mobile Phone Policy

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES



Our Purpose

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.
We pride ourselves in belonging to a caring school community where everyone is welcome.
We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.
We help everyone to become caring and active citizens.
We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.
We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.
We want to create a culture which broadens all of our horizons.
We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever-changing world.
We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our Values

We all believe...

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of.
We are a caring community where everyone is welcome.
We all value, respect and support each other.
Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.
Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school.

We all agree...

Everyone will always try their best and take pride in all that they do.
Everyone will demonstrate good manners at all times.
Everyone will respect each other and show consideration.
Everyone will respect and care for our environment and resources.
Everyone will celebrate each other's successes and achievements.

Child-friendly expectations are to be used in class and around school.

They are:

Learn and let others learn.
Celebrate what makes us special and respect our diversity.
Look after each other and our environment.
Solve problems calmly and cooperatively.



Moorside Primary School Mobile Phone Policy 2026

Government Guidance and Ofsted expectations

The government expects schools to operate a mobile phone-free environment for children during the school day, with very limited exceptions for safety. The focus is on safeguarding, reducing distractions, and promoting positive behaviour, and these expectations are reflected in our school's policy. This policy takes into account the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance Mobile Phones in Schools (January 2026).

Throughout this policy, we use the term 'mobile phone' to cover mobile phones and any other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example: to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks; to access the internet; to record audio and/or video; to take photographs).

At Moorside Primary School, children should not have mobile phones with them during the time they are in school – this includes during the normal school day as well as after school: after-school clubs, for example. This means that children should not have mobile phones on their person or in school bags, coat pockets, other possessions or in their classroom trays.

Reasoning and Approach

To provide a comprehensive summary of the Mobile Phone Policy for Moorside Primary School 2026. This summary is structured to address the needs of all stakeholders; children, staff, parents/carers, visitors, and governors. Ensuring clarity on rules, exceptions, and consequences. The policy is designed to prioritise children wellbeing, safety, and focused learning, in line with government and Ofsted guidance 2026.

Rationale:

- The policy aims to ensure children's wellbeing, safety, and focused learning.
- It supports positive behaviour, safeguarding, and reduces distractions, bullying, and online harm.
- Applies to children, staff, volunteers, governors, parents/carers, visitors, and contractors.
- Should be read alongside the Behaviour, Safeguarding, and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Children's Mobile Phones

- Children are **not permitted** to use mobile phones in school or on school trips.
- Phones must:
 - Not be seen during the school day
 - Not be heard (must be turned off, not just on silent)
 - Not be used at any time during the school day

Children should not bring mobile phones with them on residential trips. If a child needs to communicate with their parent/carer during the trip, this will be arranged by school staff, using the school mobile.

Exception of older children travelling independently: Year Five/Six (Safe Travel)

- Year Five/Six children may bring a phone for independent travel.
- Phones must be switched off before entering the school site.
- Phones are handed to the Head Teacher and stored securely in the school office.
- Phones are returned at the end of the school day.
- Phones are brought at the owner's risk; the school is not responsible for loss or damage.

Breaches of the Policy (Children)

If a child is found to have a mobile phone with them during the school day, this will be confiscated by school staff and kept in the office. Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect the mobile phone. It will not be returned to the child. If we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has a mobile phone with them, we may use our statutory powers to search the child and/or their possessions.

Reasonable grounds could include, for example, hearing the phone ring or being informed of the presence of a mobile phone by another child. We will refer to the DfE's searching, screening and confiscation in schools guidance when searching a child.

If a phone is found in school, members of the Senior Leadership Team will ask the child to open the phone and show us recent photographs and video history so that we can ensure it has not been used within the school grounds. The child will be asked to delete these images/recordings from both the phone and the 'cloud' under supervision.

Repeated breaches are managed according to the Behaviour Policy and use of a phone to bully or harm may result in further action by the Head Teacher.

Staff Mobile Phones

- Staff phones must be switched off or on silent and kept out of sight during contact time. Staff mobiles are to be kept in the staffroom or staff can use one of the school's lockers to keep their phone in.
- Staff must not use phones in areas where children are present or take photos/videos of children on personal devices.
- Use is permitted only during non-contact time and not during staff training or staff meetings and should be used in staff-only areas.
- Exceptional circumstances (e.g., family emergency) should be managed via a discussion with the Head Teacher and bespoke arrangements put in place.
- All school photos/recordings must use school equipment only, then once these have been used to support or celebrate learning photos should be cleared from the devices.

Volunteers, Visitors, Governors, Contractors

- Must follow the same rules as staff.
- Phones should be on silent as with staff expectations and lockers can be provided on request.
- Policy is communicated on arrival and sign-in.

Parents and Carers

- Asked to avoid using phones on site and to be courteous if use is necessary. (e.g. for translation purposes)
- May take photos/videos at events only of their own child; images with other children must not be shared on social media.
- The policy is also communicated to parents/carers for instance during assemblies or visits into school.

Monitoring and Review

- Policy is communicated clearly and applied consistently.
- Reviewed annually or as guidance changes.
- Impact monitored through behaviour, safeguarding, and wellbeing outcomes.

Example Implementation:

- A Year Five/Six child who needs a phone for travel hands it to the Head Teacher each morning and collects it at the end of the day.
- If a child is found using a phone during school hours, the phone is confiscated and only returned to their parent/carer.

- Staff keep their phones in the staffroom during lessons and only use them during breaks.
- Parents/carers attending a school play take photos only of their child and do not post group images online.

This policy ensures a safe, focused, and respectful environment for all members of the school community.