



THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love • Respect • Ambition

Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Devices at Thornton Primary School

At Thornton Primary School, we recognise that some pupils may have access to mobile phones and other smart devices. However, in a primary school, these devices are generally unnecessary during the school day and can present risks to learning, wellbeing, privacy and safeguarding. Our approach supports a calm, safe and focused environment in which children can learn, play and develop positive relationships.

The school policy on mobile phones and smart devices is as follows:

- **Pupils must not use or have access to mobile phones or personal smart devices during the school day**, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtime and educational activities.
- Mobile phones should **not normally be brought onto the school site**. Where there is an exceptional reason for a pupil to bring a phone to school, it must be switched off and handed to the Class Teacher on arrival. It will be stored securely and returned when the pupil leaves school.
- Pupils must not take mobile phones or personal smart devices on **educational visits, residential visits or other school activities**, unless specifically agreed by the Headteacher.
- This policy also applies to other devices with communication, recording or internet-enabled functions, including **smartwatches and similar wearable technology** where these functions could create safeguarding, privacy or disruption concerns.
- Staff must not use personal mobile phones or smart devices for personal calls, messages, photographs or other personal activity while they are directly responsible for pupils, except where necessary for an appropriate safeguarding or emergency purpose. Staff must follow the school's Acceptable Use and safeguarding procedures.
- Mobile phones and smart devices can be used to take photographs, record sound or video and access online services. **Unauthorised recording, photographing, filming, messaging or sharing of images or information involving pupils or staff is not permitted** and may constitute a safeguarding, behaviour or data protection concern.
- Where a pupil uses a mobile phone or smart device inappropriately, the school may **confiscate the device** in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and relevant DfE guidance. Parents/carers may be contacted and asked to collect the device where appropriate.



THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love • Respect • Ambition



- The school reserves the right to retain a confiscated device for a reasonable and specified period. Where there are safeguarding concerns, the school will follow its safeguarding procedures and may consider whether further action, including searching a device where lawful and appropriate, is required.
- Mobile phones and other personal devices are brought onto the school site **at the owner's risk**. The school does not accept responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal devices.
- Where a pupil has an identified need that means an adaptation or reasonable adjustment to this policy may be appropriate, the school will consider this on an **individual basis**, working with the pupil, parents/carers and relevant professionals. Any agreed arrangement will be clearly recorded and regularly reviewed.
- Pupils and staff must follow the school's **Online Safety, Acceptable Use, Behaviour and Safeguarding policies** when using technology. The school will respond firmly and proportionately to inappropriate use of mobile phones or smart devices, including use which takes place outside school but has an impact on pupils, staff or the school community.

This policy is intended to support Thornton Primary School's commitment to **Love, Respect and Ambition**, ensuring that technology does not undermine pupils' safety, learning, relationships or wellbeing.

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Signed: Mr David Ashcroft, Headteacher

To be agreed by the Standards and Effectiveness Committee on 6th October 2026