BADSWORTH
CofE School

CARE – Prepare – Believe
'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me'
Philippians 4:13

Mobile Phones, Smart Devices and Wearable Technology Policy

September, 2026

At Badsworth CE J&I School, we are committed to providing a safe, secure and distraction-free environment where all children can flourish. We recognise the benefits that technology can bring; however, during the school day children learn and flourish best when they are fully present, engaged and free from the distractions associated with personal smart devices.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the school's expectations regarding mobile phones and smart devices.

The policy aims to:

- Safeguard pupils, staff and visitors.
- Protect privacy.
- Promote positive wellbeing and healthy relationships.
- Minimise distractions to learning.
- Support a safe and focused learning environment.
- Meet the expectations of Department for Education guidance regarding mobile phones in schools.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.

2. Definition of Smart Devices

For the purposes of this policy, smart devices include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smart watches
- Smart glasses
- Fitness trackers with communication capability
- AirTags and similar tracking devices
- Wearable technology
- Recording devices

This includes any device capable of making calls, sending messages, accessing the internet, recording audio or video, taking photographs, or tracking location.

3. Mobile Phones

Badsworth CE J&I School is a mobile phone-free environment for pupils.

Pupils should not bring mobile phones to school unless there is an essential reason, such as supporting their safety when travelling independently to and from school.

Where a mobile phone is brought to school:

- It must be switched off before entering the school site.
- It must be handed to the school office immediately upon arrival.
- It will be securely stored in the school safe.
- It will be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

Pupils must not access or use mobile phones at any point during the school day.

School does not take responsibility for mobile phones that are brought into school. Phone being brought into school should be the exception and not the norm.

4. Smart Watches and Smart Devices

Pupils must not bring, wear or use smart watches or other personal smart devices on the school site.

This includes devices capable of:

- Communication
- Messaging
- Internet access
- Photography
- Audio or video recording
- Location tracking

Traditional watches that tell the time only are permitted.

5. Tracking Devices

Pupils must not bring AirTags or other personal tracking devices into school.

Whilst we recognise that parents wish to keep children safe, personal tracking devices present safeguarding, privacy and data protection concerns.

If a tracking device is found, it may be removed and securely stored until it can be returned to a parent or carer.

6. Educational Visits

The same expectations apply on educational visits unless an alternative arrangement has been communicated by the visit leader.

For safeguarding reasons, children must not carry AirTags, smart watches or other tracking devices whilst participating in school visits.

Additional expectations may be communicated within individual visit letters.

7. Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that, in exceptional circumstances, technology may form part of an agreed medical, disability or additional needs provision.

Any such arrangements must be agreed in advance with the Headteacher.

8. Breaches of the Policy

Where a pupil brings an unauthorised device into school:

- The device may be confiscated.
- Parents may be informed.
- The device may be returned only to a parent or carer where appropriate.
- Repeated breaches may be addressed through the school's behaviour procedures.
- Refusal to hand over an unauthorised device may be dealt with through the school's behaviour procedures.

Any safeguarding concerns arising from the misuse of technology will be managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

9. Staff, Volunteers and Visitors

Staff, volunteers and visitors are expected to follow the school's safeguarding, data protection and online safety procedures regarding the use of personal devices.

Personal devices must not be used to photograph, record or communicate with pupils unless authorised by the school and in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Visitors may be asked to switch off, store or refrain from using personal smart devices where this is necessary to safeguard pupils or protect privacy.

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body to ensure that it remains compliant with safeguarding requirements, technological developments and statutory guidance.