BRADGATE
Education Partnership

Stronger Together

POLICY:

Mobile Phone Policy

The Pochin School

Approved: March 2026
Review Date: Feb 2027
Responsible Officer: Deputy CEO

Ambitious
Collaborative
Ethical

BRADGATE
Education Partnership



MISSION:

Through strong collaboration between our schools, Bradgate Education Partnership is committed to providing an ambitious and inclusive education for all.

We want our children and young people to realise their full potential academically, socially and personally. We celebrate the distinctive ethos of each individual school. We ensure that all who are part of our Trust have a deep sense of belonging and a supportive opportunity to grow.

Stronger Together

VALUES:

Ambitious
We aim high and are aspirational for all.

Collaborative
We work closely together to encourage, support, challenge and share.

Ethical
We treat everyone fairly, within a culture of kindness and respect.

VISION:

PUPILS
All our pupils are equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to thrive in life and make a positive difference.

SCHOOLS
All our schools provide a safe and happy space where pupils study an ambitious curriculum which unlocks their personal potential so that they achieve exceptional outcomes.

WORKFORCE
All staff have positive impact in their roles whilst feeling supported and valued both personally and professionally.

COMMUNITY
All our schools embrace the local area they serve within a deeply embedded culture of community partnership.

WIDER WORLD
All our pupils and staff understand, respect and embrace the diversity of the wider world in which they live.

SUSTAINABILITY
Across our partnership, everything we do is aligned to meet the needs of the present without compromising a sustainable future.

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bepschools.org

1. Policy Statement

The Bradgate Education Partnership (BEP) is committed to creating and sustaining mobile phone–free environments across all Trust schools, ensuring that learning, wellbeing and safeguarding remain paramount. This policy aligns with Department for Education expectations (January 2026) and Ofsted inspection requirements from April 2026, which emphasise clarity, consistency and effective enforcement of mobile phone rules.

2. Rationale and Evidence Base

Research demonstrates significant risks associated with early and excessive smartphone use, including reduced attention, increased anxiety, sleep disruption and heightened exposure to online pressures. Evidence also shows that removing phones from the school day improves behaviour, focus and social interaction. These findings underpin BEP's Trust-wide approach to creating phone-free schools.

3. Scope of Policy

This Trust-wide policy applies to all pupils across all BEP school sites during the entire school day, including arrival, lessons, breaks, transitions, clubs, and extracurricular activities unless specific written exemptions apply.

4. Definitions

- Mobile phones: Any device capable of communication, internet access or media capture.
- Smart devices: Smartwatches with cellular or messaging capabilities, wireless earbuds and similar items.
- School day: From arrival on school grounds until leaving the site, including all structured and unstructured periods.

5. Core Expectations for Pupils

- No mobile phones or smart devices may be used, seen or heard anywhere on site.
- Devices must be switched off and handed in to the School Office

6. Prohibited Devices

The following items are not permitted unless formally authorised: smartphones, cellular-enabled smartwatches, wireless earbuds and any device capable of bypassing phone-free expectations.

7. Permitted Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted for: documented medical needs; SEND requirements; individual safeguarding circumstances. All exceptions require a written agreement and clear usage parameters jointly established with school leaders and families.

8. Enforcement and Consequences

- First breach: Device confiscated until the end of the school day.
- Repeated breaches: Parent/carer collection, individual behaviour plan and/or enhanced monitoring.

9. Parent and Carer Partnership

BEP operates a Parent Mobile Phone Pledge, promoting delay of smartphone access and social media access. Parents/carers agree to support the policy, avoid contacting children during the school day, model healthy device habits and remain aware of digital wellbeing risks.

10. Staff Responsibilities

Staff must model appropriate use of technology, enforce this policy consistently, undertake digital safeguarding training and report device-related concerns promptly.

The use of personal mobile phones, cameras or image recording equipment is not permitted during the school in areas that children access. If you do need to use your mobile phone on school premises, during the school day, where children are present, please kindly speak to the office team or the headteacher. The only exception is the use of personal mobiles for 2-step authentications. All mobiles that are not for school use must remain in staff lockers or in cupboards (out of sight) when children are in the classrooms and during teaching sessions.

11. Pupil Education and Curriculum

The Trust provides digital wellbeing and online safety education through KS2-KS4 modules, assemblies, induction and pupil voice activities, focusing on attention, sleep, persuasive technology and healthy digital habits.

12. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

Each school completes termly audits and reports to the Trust Board, evaluating compliance, incidents, wellbeing indicators and policy impact. A named Trustee oversees implementation to ensure consistency across BEP.

13. Communication Strategy

The policy will be communicated via school websites, staff briefings, parent events, pupil induction and visible signage (e.g., 'Mobile Phone Free Zone').

14. Review and Governance

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to changes in national guidance, Ofsted requirements or emerging research on digital wellbeing.