



Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Ratified by Governors: September 2026

Review: September 2029

1. Introduction and aims

At Herrick Primary School we recognise that mobile phones and other smart devices are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, and for the wider school community. We also recognise that these devices carry real risks to safeguarding, privacy, behaviour and learning, and that those risks must be actively managed.

National expectations have changed since this policy was last reviewed. Schools in England are now expected to be mobile phone-free environments by default, and anything other than this should be by exception only. This policy sets out how Herrick Primary School meets that expectation in a way that is proportionate for a primary school and fair to individual pupils.

1.1 Aims

This policy aims to:

- Establish and maintain Herrick Primary School as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day
- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible use of phones and smart devices
- Set clear, consistent guidelines for pupils, staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and contractors
- Set out the limited and exceptional circumstances in which a pupil may need access to a device, and how we will make reasonable adjustments where the law requires it
- Support the school's other policies, particularly those relating to child protection, behaviour, online safety and data protection

1.2 Risks this policy addresses

- Risks to safeguarding and child protection, including child-on-child abuse, harmful sexual behaviour and online harms
- Data protection risks and risks to the privacy of pupils, staff and families
- Lesson disruption and loss of focus
- Bullying, including online bullying and bullying that begins outside school
- Risk of theft, loss or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy has been written with regard to the legislation and guidance listed below. It is not a complete or definitive statement of the law, and legal advice should be sought where necessary.

2.1 Legislation

- **Education Act 1996, section 550C** (inserted by section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, in force 29 June 2026) — requires the headteacher to have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance on registered pupils having and using mobile phones and other personal interactive communication devices during school hours and on school premises.

- **Education Act 1996, sections 550ZA to 550ZD** — the statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions without consent for prohibited items and for items banned by school rules, and to examine and, where appropriate, erase data or files on an electronic device.
- **The Schools (Specification and Disposal of Articles) Regulations 2012** — specifies further prohibited items.
- **Education and Inspections Act 2006, sections 88 to 94** — the duty to determine and publicise a behaviour policy, the power to discipline and confiscate, and the protection of staff from liability for confiscated property.
- **Education Act 2002, section 175** — the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.
- **Equality Act 2010** — the duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage, and the public sector equality duty.
- **Children and Families Act 2014, section 100** — the duty to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions.
- **UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018**, as amended by the **Data (Use and Access) Act 2025** (Royal Assent 19 June 2025, with the main data protection provisions commenced on 5 and 6 February 2026). The Act introduces 'children's higher protection matters', confirms that searches in response to a subject access request need only be reasonable and proportionate, and requires a route for complaints about data protection matters.
- **Human Rights Act 1998, Article 8** — the right to respect for private and family life, which is engaged whenever a pupil is searched or a device is examined.
- **Protection of Children Act 1978 and Criminal Justice Act 1988, section 160** — offences relating to indecent images of children.
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003**, including the intimate image offences at sections 66A to 66D inserted by the Online Safety Act 2023, and the offences at sections 66E to 66H of creating or requesting the creation of a purported (including AI-generated or 'nudified') intimate image without consent, inserted by section 138 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and in force from 6 February 2026.
- **Online Safety Act 2023** — including the false communications, threatening communications and cyberflashing offences, and the duties it places on online platforms.
- **Crime and Policing Act 2026** (Royal Assent 29 April 2026) — further extends the law on technology-enabled sexual offending, including offences relating to the supply of AI 'nudification' tools. Its provisions are being commenced in stages.
- **Malicious Communications Act 1988 and Communications Act 2003, section 127** — offences relating to grossly offensive, indecent or menacing communications.
- **Protection from Harassment Act 1997** — offences relating to a course of conduct amounting to harassment.

2.2 Statutory and departmental guidance

- **'Mobile phones in schools'**, DfE — statutory guidance from 29 June 2026, to be followed from 1 September 2026.
- **'Keeping children safe in education' 2026**, DfE — statutory safeguarding guidance in force from 1 September 2026, including the requirement for governing bodies to ensure that filtering and monitoring systems are in place and that their effectiveness is reviewed at least annually.
- **'Behaviour in schools'**, DfE.
- **'Searching, screening and confiscation in schools'**, DfE.

- 'Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools', DfE (2026).
- 'Teaching online safety in schools' and the 'Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education' guidance, DfE.
- 'Filtering and monitoring standards' and 'Cyber security standards for schools and colleges', DfE.
- 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people', UK Council for Internet Safety.
- 'Working together to safeguard children' 2026, HM Government.
- Information Commissioner's Office guidance on children's personal data and on data protection by design and by default.

3. Definitions and scope

3.1 What counts as a mobile phone or smart device

Wherever this policy refers to a mobile phone, it also refers to any other personal device with similar functionality — that is, any device that can send or receive messages or notifications over a mobile or wireless network, or that can record audio, images or video. This includes but is not limited to:

- Smartphones and basic mobile phones
- Smartwatches and fitness trackers with messaging, calling, camera or notification functions
- Smart glasses and other wearable cameras
- Wireless earbuds and headphones paired to a personal device
- Personal tablets, e-readers with browsers, and handheld games consoles with messaging or internet access
- Personal cameras and voice recorders

Ordinary analogue and digital watches that only tell the time are permitted.

Devices provided by, or on behalf of, the school for pupils to use are not covered by this prohibition.

Their use is governed by the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and by our filtering and monitoring arrangements.

3.2 What counts as the school day

For pupils, this policy applies from the moment a pupil arrives on the school site until the moment they leave it. This includes registration, lessons, the time between lessons, breaktime and lunchtime, and any breakfast club, after-school club or wraparound provision run by the school.

3.3 Who this policy applies to

This policy applies to all pupils, all staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff), governors, volunteers, contractors, parents, carers and visitors, and to anyone else otherwise engaged by the school.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The headteacher

Section 550C of the Education Act 1996 places the duty to have regard to the DfE's mobile phones guidance on the headteacher. The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining this policy, and ensuring it is applied consistently across the school

- Deciding, case by case, whether a pupil may bring a device to school and on what terms (sections 5 and 6)
- Deciding whether special arrangements are appropriate for a member of staff (section 8)
- Authorising which members of staff may carry out searches
- Ensuring the policy is communicated clearly to pupils, staff and parents and published on the school website

4.2 The Governing Body

- Ratifying this policy on review and monitoring its impact
- Holding the headteacher to account for its implementation
- Ensuring, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and that their effectiveness is reviewed at least once every academic year
- Ensuring that safeguarding, online safety and cyber security are considered together as part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements

4.3 All staff

- Enforcing this policy consistently and fairly
- Modelling the behaviour we expect of pupils
- Reporting any breach, and any safeguarding concern arising from device use, to the appropriate person
- Notifying the headteacher where a member of staff, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor is not following this policy

4.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL (or a deputy) must be informed of any concern arising from the use of a mobile phone or smart device that indicates a pupil may be suffering, or at risk of, harm. The DSL decides what action is needed, including whether to make a referral to children's social care or the police, following the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

4.5 Volunteers, contractors and visitors

Volunteers, contractors, visitors and anyone else engaged by the school must follow section 11 of this policy, and must alert a member of staff if they witness, or become aware of, a breach of it.

5. Use of mobile phones and smart devices by pupils

Herrick Primary School is a mobile phone-free school. Pupils are not permitted to have a mobile phone or other smart device in their possession at any point during the school day.

5.1 Bringing a device to school

Pupils should not bring a mobile phone or smart device to school unless the headteacher has given written permission in advance, using the form at Appendix 1. Permission will normally only be considered where:

- The pupil travels to or from school unaccompanied, and a parent or carer has requested in writing that they carry a phone for that journey
- The pupil is a young carer
- The pupil is attending a school trip or residential visit where the headteacher has agreed devices may be brought

- There is another exceptional reason, including where an adaptation or reasonable adjustment is required under section 6

5.2 Handing devices in

Where permission has been given, the pupil must, on arrival at school:

- Switch the device off
- Hand it in at the school office

The device is stored securely and returned to the pupil at the end of the school day. The school office keeps a record of devices handed in and returned. Smartwatches and similar wearables that have messaging, calling, camera or notification functions must be handed in on the same basis; they may not be worn during the school day.

5.3 Consequences of breaching this policy

Breaches of this policy are dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy. Where a pupil brings a device to school without permission, or does not hand in a device they have permission to bring:

- The device will be confiscated and held securely in the school office until the end of the school day
- Parents and carers will be contacted
- The pupil may be placed on a Behaviour Report where this is considered necessary
- Repeated breaches may result in permission to bring a device being withdrawn

Any sanction must be proportionate. Before applying a sanction, staff should consider the pupil's age, any special educational need or disability, and their individual circumstances. Staff must also consider whether the behaviour gives cause to suspect that the pupil is suffering, or may be at risk of, harm — if so, they must follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and speak to the DSL rather than treating the matter as a behaviour issue alone.

5.4 Teaching pupils about phones and online safety

Pupils are reminded of this policy at the start of each school year and at regular intervals. Through our RSHE and computing curriculum, pupils are taught:

- The risks associated with mobile phone and smart device use, in school and beyond
- The benefits of a phone-free school day, so that they understand and support the reasons behind this policy
- How to keep themselves safe online, how their information and data can be shared, and the effects of their online actions on others
- How and to whom to report a concern about something that has happened online

Pupils will always be able to speak to a member of staff about something that has happened online, and where necessary will be given access to their device in order to show a concern to a trusted adult.

6. Adaptations and reasonable adjustments

Being a phone-free school does not override the school's other legal duties. Each request is considered on its own merits, and the following are not an exhaustive list.

6.1 Disabled pupils

Under the Equality Act 2010, the school must take such steps as are reasonable to avoid a disabled pupil being placed at a substantial disadvantage by our policies or practices. Where access to a

mobile phone during the school day is necessary because of the nature of a pupil's disability, allowing that access may be a reasonable adjustment, and refusing it may breach our duty.

6.2 Pupils with medical conditions

Under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, the school must have arrangements in place to support pupils with medical conditions. Some of these arrangements involve a phone — for example, a pupil with diabetes using continuous glucose monitoring linked to a phone. Where a device allows a pupil to manage their medical condition effectively, the school will not prevent its use. Arrangements are recorded in the pupil's individual healthcare plan.

6.3 Young carers and other individual circumstances

Some pupils need access to a phone because of their circumstances at home, including young carers. The school will allow flexibility for these pupils and will record the arrangement in the relevant plan or policy.

6.4 How adaptations work in practice

Flexibility does not mean a pupil is exempt from all restrictions. Where an adaptation is agreed, the school will set out in writing:

- The specific purpose for which the device may be used
- The times at which it may be used
- The location in which it may be used — for example, the school office or a designated room
- Who is responsible for supervising the arrangement, and when it will be reviewed

Parents and carers may request an adaptation at any time by contacting the school office. The headteacher will respond in a timely way and will explain the reasons for any decision.

7. Searching, screening and confiscation

7.1 Mobile phones as a banned item

Mobile phones and other smart devices are identified in the school's Behaviour Policy as items that may be searched for. This means that the headteacher, and staff authorised by the headteacher, have a statutory power under section 550ZA of the Education Act 1996 to search a pupil or their possessions without consent where they have reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil has such a device.

7.2 How searches are carried out

Searches are carried out in line with the DfE's 'Searching, screening and confiscation in schools' guidance and with the school's own procedures. In particular:

- A search without consent may only be carried out by the headteacher or a member of staff authorised by them
- The member of staff carrying out the search must be of the same sex as the pupil, and another member of staff must be present as a witness
- The search must take place on school premises, or where a member of staff has lawful control or charge of the pupil, such as on a school trip
- Staff may not require a pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing
- Staff must consider the pupil's age and any special educational need or disability, and must take account of the pupil's right to respect for their private life under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998
- A record is kept of any search conducted without consent, and parents are informed

Given the age of our pupils, a search without consent would be a rare step in this school. In most cases a member of staff will simply ask a pupil to hand a device in, and staff should always try this first.

7.3 Confiscation

Staff may confiscate a mobile phone or smart device found as a result of a search, or found in any other way, where its presence breaches this policy. The law protects staff from liability for any loss of, or damage to, a confiscated item, provided they have acted lawfully.

Confiscation must be proportionate. Staff should consider what the confiscation is intended to achieve, whether the same outcome could be achieved another way, and the pupil's individual circumstances. Confiscated devices are stored securely in the school office and, in normal circumstances, returned at the end of the school day.

7.4 Examining data on a device

A member of staff who lawfully seizes a device may examine data or files on it where there is good reason to do so – for example, where the device may have been used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or to break school rules, including in cases of online bullying. Where a search reveals material that is, or may be, evidence of a criminal offence, staff must not delete it and must hand the device to the police or the DSL.

Staff must never view, copy, print, share, store or forward images that they suspect may be nude or semi-nude images of a child. If a member of staff has any reason to believe a device contains such an image, they must stop, secure the device, and report immediately to the DSL. The DSL will decide what to do next, following the UK Council for Internet Safety's guidance 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings' and the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

7.5 Reasonable force

Staff must not use force to search for an item banned under school rules, including a mobile phone. Any use of restrictive intervention in the school is governed separately by the DfE's 2026 guidance on restrictive interventions and by the school's Behaviour Policy.

8. Online conduct and criminal offences

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are regularly reminded, in an age-appropriate way, that certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can amount to criminal conduct even when carried out by children. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Conduct of this kind includes, but is not limited to:

- Sharing, or threatening to share, nude or semi-nude images – including images that have been digitally created or altered. Creating or requesting such an image of another person without their consent is also now a criminal offence.
- Taking or recording an intimate image of another person without their consent
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, messages or social media posts directed at someone because of their ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or disability
- Sending grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing messages, or messages sent to cause distress or anxiety
- A course of conduct amounting to harassment or stalking

8.1 Nudes and semi-nudes

The school follows the UK Council for Internet Safety's guidance 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings'. Any incident involving nude or semi-nude images of a child is treated as a safeguarding matter and reported to the DSL immediately. It is never treated solely as a behaviour matter, and children involved are treated as children first.

8.2 Artificial intelligence and manipulated images

The law now covers images that only appear to show a real person. Using an app or an AI tool to create a fake nude or sexualised image of another person, including a classmate or a member of staff, is a criminal offence, and it is an offence even if the image is never shared with anyone else. Where an indecent image depicts a person under 18, the law is stricter still. Any incident of this kind at Herrick will be reported to the DSL and, where appropriate, to the police.

8.3 Online bullying

The school may act in relation to online behaviour that takes place outside school where it affects the welfare of our pupils or the running of the school. Incidents are dealt with under the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Behaviour Policy, and are reported to the DSL where there is a safeguarding concern.

9. Use of mobile phones by staff

9.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) must not use their personal mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils at any point during the school day. Personal calls, messages and personal use of apps should be restricted to areas of the school where pupils are not present, such as the staff room, and to non-contact time.

This expectation is not simply a rule for its own sake. Staff who are visibly phone-free are far better placed to challenge pupils and to enforce this policy credibly.

There are limited occasions when it may be appropriate for a member of staff to use a phone or similar device during the school day, for example to set homework, to record rewards or sanctions on a school system, or to complete multi-factor authentication for a school account. Where this is necessary, staff should be discreet and should make clear to pupils, where appropriate, that the use is work-related.

There may also be personal circumstances in which a member of staff needs access to their phone during contact time, for example:

- For emergency contact by their own child, or their child's school
- In the case of an acutely ill dependant or family member

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to allow special arrangements. Where special arrangements are not considered necessary, staff can give the school office number, 0116 266 5656, as a point of emergency contact.

9.2 Safeguarding

- Staff must not give their personal contact details to parents or pupils, and must not connect with them through social media or messaging apps
- Staff should avoid publicising their personal contact details on any social media platform or website, to reduce the risk of unwanted contact

- Staff must not use a personal device to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else that could identify a pupil. Where photographs or recordings are needed for a lesson, trip or activity, school equipment must be used
- Staff must not use a personal device in areas where pupils are changing, or in toilet or intimate care areas, under any circumstances

Further detail on contact with pupils and parents is set out in the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct.

9.3 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances it may be appropriate for staff to use a personal phone for work, for example during:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervision of off-site trips
- Supervision of residential visits

In these circumstances staff will:

- Use the phone in an appropriate and professional manner, to contact the school
- Not use the phone to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else that could identify a pupil
- Not use the phone to contact parents directly. Where contact is necessary, it must be made through the school office on 0116 266 5656
- Delete any school-related contact details or information from the device once the trip or activity has ended

9.4 School-provided phones

Some members of staff may be provided with a mobile phone by the school for work purposes. Only authorised staff may use a school phone, and access must not be given to anyone without authorisation. Staff must:

- Use school phones for school purposes only
- Ensure that any communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with the Staff Code of Conduct
- Keep the device secure, and report the loss or theft of a school device immediately to the headteacher and to the school's data protection lead

9.5 Sanctions

Staff who fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action. See the school's Staff Disciplinary Policy – a copy is held on the 'Y' drive in the School Policies folder.

10. Data protection

The school processes personal data in accordance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, as amended by the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

- Staff must not use a personal mobile phone or smart device to process personal data or any other confidential school information. This includes photographs of pupils, pupil lists, assessment data, medical information and safeguarding records
- Photographs and recordings of pupils must be taken on school equipment and stored on school systems

- Where a device has been used to process personal data in an emergency, this must be reported to the school's data protection lead so that the data can be transferred to school systems and deleted from the device
- Any actual or suspected personal data breach involving a device — including a lost or stolen phone — must be reported immediately so that the school can assess whether it is reportable to the Information Commissioner's Office within 72 hours

Because we are processing children's personal data, the law requires us to give particular weight to children's needs and to the higher protection to which their data is entitled. This applies to any decision about how devices, apps and school systems are used.

Where a pupil, parent or member of staff wishes to make a subject access request, or to complain about the way the school has handled personal data, they should contact the school office. Further information is in the school Data Protection Policy and the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, held on the 'Y' drive in the School Policies folder.

11. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors

Parents, visitors, volunteers, governors and contractors on the school site during the school day must follow this policy as it applies to staff. This means:

- Keeping phones on silent while on the school grounds
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils
- Not taking photographs or recordings of pupils, unless it is a public event such as a school fair, or the photograph is of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting images of other people's children on social media without their consent

Parents, visitors and volunteers are informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception (Appendix 2).

Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to contact other parents
- Take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents and volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing this policy as it applies to pupils, as set out in section 5.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not attempt to contact their child on a personal device during the school day. Office staff will pass on urgent messages promptly, and we ask parents to support the policy by using this route.

12. Trips, residential visits and activities outside the school day

The headteacher decides, for each trip or residential visit, whether pupils may bring a device and on what terms. The starting point is that devices are not brought, so that pupils' experience of the visit is not disrupted.

Where devices are permitted on a residential visit, arrangements for their storage and supervised use will be set out in writing to parents in advance. Pupils must always be able to access a device, or a member of staff's device, where this is needed to raise a concern about something that has happened online.

13. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones or smart devices that are lost, damaged or stolen on the school premises, or during school visits or trips. Devices are brought onto the school site at the owner's risk.

Lost devices should be handed in to the main office, and the school will attempt to contact the owner.

14. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. Ofsted considers schools' mobile phone policies, and how consistently they are applied, as part of school inspections, so it is important that the policy is understood and applied by everyone.

This policy is reviewed annually. When reviewing it, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers and other staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents involving devices
- The outcome of the annual review of filtering and monitoring systems
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority and other relevant organisations

The policy is ratified by the Governing Body and published on the school website.

Related policies

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Behaviour

Anti-Bullying

Online Safety, ICT Acceptable Use

Data Protection

Staff Code of Conduct

Staff Disciplinary

Educational Visits

Appendix 1: Permission for a pupil to bring a phone or smart device to school

To be completed by the parent or carer and returned to the school office.

Pupil details	
Pupil name	
Year group / class	
Parent(s) / carer(s) name(s)	
Type of device	
Contact number	

Please indicate the reason for the request:

- Travels to and from school unaccompanied
- Is a young carer
- Is attending a school trip or residential visit where devices have been permitted
- Requires a device as a reasonable adjustment for a disability, or to manage a medical condition (please give details below)
- Other (please give details below)

Details: _____

I understand that:

- My child must switch the device off and hand it in at the school office on arrival, and will collect it at the end of the school day
- Unless a specific adaptation has been agreed in writing, my child will not have access to the device during the school day
- My child must abide by the school's Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy
- The school accepts no responsibility for devices that are lost, damaged or stolen
- The school reserves the right to withdraw permission if the policy is not followed

Parent / carer signature: _____ Date: _____

Pupil signature (where appropriate): _____

For school use only	
Authorised by	
Date	
Adaptation agreed	
Review date	

Appendix 2: Mobile phone information slip for visitors

This information is included with the Health & Safety / Fire Information given to all visitors and contractors when they arrive at reception.

Use of mobile phones and smart devices in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent while you are on the school grounds
- Please do not use your phone where pupils are present
- Please do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils
- Please do not take photographs or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child) or of staff
- This applies to smartwatches, smart glasses and other recording devices as well as to phones

The school accepts no responsibility for phones or devices that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy is available from the school office and on the school website.

Appendix 3: Summary of changes from the February 2024 policy

This summary is provided to assist the Governing Body in reviewing and ratifying the policy.

Area	What has changed
Statutory status	Adds the new duty in section 550C of the Education Act 1996, inserted by section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, and confirms that the DfE's 'Mobile phones in schools' guidance is statutory from 29 June 2026 and must be followed from 1 September 2026.
Legislation section	New section 2 listing the legislation and guidance the policy is written against, including KCSIE 2026 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.
Scope of devices	New section 3 extends the policy from 'mobile phones' to all personal smart devices, including smartwatches, smart glasses, wearables and earbuds, and confirms that school-provided devices are outside the prohibition.
Phone-free by default	The policy now states explicitly that the school is a mobile phone-free environment for the whole school day, from arrival on site to departure.
Adaptations and reasonable adjustments	New section 6, required by the statutory guidance. Covers Equality Act 2010 reasonable adjustments, the Children and Families Act 2014 duty for pupils with medical conditions, young carers, and how an agreed adaptation is recorded and reviewed.
Searching and confiscation	New section 7 setting out the statutory search power, how searches are conducted, the limits on examining data, and an explicit prohibition on staff viewing suspected nude or semi-nude images of children.
Online conduct and offences	Section 8 replaces the single reference to 'sexting' with current terminology and current offences, including the intimate image offences and the new offence of creating or requesting an AI-generated or 'nudified' intimate image.
Staff phone use	Section 9 aligns with the statutory guidance: staff must not use phones for personal reasons in front of pupils, with narrow work-related exceptions such as multi-factor authentication.
Data protection	Section 10 updated for the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, including children's higher protection matters and breach reporting.
Filtering and monitoring	Governing Body responsibilities updated to include the KCSIE 2026 requirement to review filtering and monitoring effectiveness at least annually.
Ofsted	Section 14 notes that inspectors consider the mobile phone policy and how consistently it is applied.
Appendices	Permission form updated to cover smart devices and agreed adaptations; visitor slip extended to wearables.

Note: the statutory duty in section 550C of the Education Act 1996 sits with the headteacher, as Herrick Primary School is a community school maintained by Leicester City Council. The Governing Body retains its role in ratifying and monitoring the policy.