# Orleans Primary School



**Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Technology Policy**

## 2026-2028

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| Governor's Committee Responsible | Full Governing Body |
| Review Cycle | 3 Yearly |
| Date written / last review | January 2026 |
| Date of next review | January 2028 |

## Introduction, Aims, and Purpose of Policy

The widespread ownership of mobile phones and smart devices means that we all—teachers, pupils, and parents—must ensure that this powerful technology is used responsibly. This policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones, smartwatches, and tracking devices are clearly identified and addressed, ensuring that children at Orleans can enjoy the benefits of technology while minimising potential problems.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all members of our school community understand the appropriate use of mobile phones and smart devices by pupils and how we work in partnership with parents to maintain their safe and positive use.

**Please also refer to the following policies and documents:**

- Data Protection Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Freedom of Information Act
- Online Safety Policy
- Searching, Screening, and Confiscation (DfE guidance, January 2018)

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## *Responsibility*

The use of mobile technology and the bringing of phones to school is a shared responsibility between home and school. At Orleans, we encourage the responsible use of technology as part of children's development, particularly as they transition to secondary school.

The internet and communication technologies available on mobile devices are an important and positive part of everyday life. However, children must be supported to manage and respond to risks so that they can develop resilience and stay safe online.

There are significant risks associated with the unregulated use of mobile technology. To promote safe and appropriate practice, we have created a Mobile Technology Acceptable Use Policy that establishes clear guidelines for use. This policy balances risks and benefits while clarifying shared responsibilities between home and school.

## Guidelines for Children in Year 6

As part of our Year 6 curriculum and to aid the transition to secondary school, children in Year 6 may bring a basic, non-smart 'feature' phone to school. Smart technology devices such as smartphones and smartwatches that can record audio, take photos, or connect to the internet are not permitted. Watches that allow for gaming capability are not allowed in school as they can distract from learning.

Upon entering Year 6, children will receive a copy of our Acceptable Use Policy to take home, read, understand, and sign. Parents and children must sign the agreement before a phone is brought to school.

With support from parents and staff, children will learn about the risks associated with mobile technology and ways to keep themselves safe through PSHE, computing lessons, and assemblies throughout Year 6.

## Guidelines for Children in Year 5

Children in Year 5 **are not normally permitted to bring a phone to school.** However, in exceptional cases where a parent requests permission, the school may grant approval if it is deemed necessary for the child's safety. If permission is granted, the **same conditions in the Acceptable Use Policy will apply.**

## Smartwatches and GPS Trackers

### Smartwatches

Smartwatches and activity trackers are permitted in school provided that:

- They do not distract from teaching and learning.
- They do not have video, photo, or audio recording capabilities.
- They cannot connect to mobile networks independently.
- Any connected mobile phone is not brought to school.
- Any communication features remain disabled during school hours.

### GPS Trackers

We strongly discourage the use of tracking devices with children of any age. However, if a parent provides a child in Years 5 or 6 with a GPS tracking device (such as AngelSense or Gabb Watch), it will be treated the same as a mobile phone.

- Children must turn them off and store them in their class bag in the school office upon arrival.
- They will not have access to them until the end of the day.

Bluetooth tracking devices (such as AirTag, Galaxy SmartTag2 and Tile) are not permitted in school, as they can cause false stalking alerts and interfere with safeguarding measures.

No GPS or Bluetooth tracking device is permitted on school excursions.

## Online Conduct

At Orleans, we recognise the shared responsibility to educate children about the impact of their online activity.

- Children must be aware of their digital footprint and how their actions can affect themselves and others.
- Sharing images or personal details without permission is not allowed.
- Posting negative, threatening, or violent comments is strictly prohibited.
- Using a mobile phone to menace, harass, or offend is a criminal offence.

Online bullying will not be tolerated. All incidents will be recorded and investigated, and support will be provided to those affected.

## Sanctions

- Breaches of this policy may result in confiscation or a ban on bringing a phone to school.
- If a mobile phone is confiscated, it will be securely stored and parents will be notified.
- Parents will need to collect the phone from the school.