

# Spire Junior School

Jawbones Hill, Derby Road, Chesterfield S40 2EN  
Telephone: (01246) 234546

**Headteacher: Mrs C Vernon**

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8<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

## Use of Mobile Phones on School Premises

Our school aims to provide a calm, safe, and focused learning environment where all children can thrive. To support this, we follow Department for Education (DfE) guidance which states that schools should be mobile phone-free during the school day by default.

### **Why does the school restrict mobile phones?**

Mobile phones can:

- Distract pupils from learning
- Disrupt lessons and social time
- Increase the risk of bullying or unkind behaviour
- Introduce safeguarding risks, such as unsupervised online contact or image sharing

By limiting mobile phone use during the school day, we help pupils focus on learning, enjoy positive social interactions, and stay safe.

### **What does this mean for pupils?**

Pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones during the school day, from arrival on the school site until they leave at the end of the day. This includes lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Our school uses a clear and consistent approach to managing mobile phones, which is applied equally to all pupils.

Mobile phones must be fully switched off and handed in to the Class Teacher or an agreed member of staff within class or the School Office on arrival.

Where pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones or similar devices onto the school site, they must be fully powered off for the duration of the school day and managed in line with the school's agreed arrangements. Silent, vibrate, sleep, locked or "Do Not Disturb" modes do not meet this requirement.



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Where pupils are permitted to bring phones onto the school site, they remain the responsibility of the pupil unless formally handed in under the school's agreed storage arrangements. The school is not responsible for loss, damage or theft where pupils do not follow the required procedures.

## Are there any exceptions?

We recognise that limited exceptions may be needed in specific circumstances, such as:

- Medical needs
- SEND or disability-related requirements
- Safeguarding or welfare reasons

Any exception is agreed in advance, documented, and reviewed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate. Exceptions will set out when, where and how the device may be used.

## How does this support safeguarding?

Restricting mobile phone use supports our safeguarding responsibilities under Keeping Children Safe in Education. It helps reduce risks related to:

- Online safety
- Child-on-child abuse
- Inappropriate recording, audio capture, or sharing of images or messages

This is a preventative approach designed to protect all pupils.

## What is expected of parents and carers?]

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting this policy. We ask that you:

- Reinforce the school's expectations with your child
- Use the school's usual communication routes if you need to pass on urgent information or contact your child during the school day, rather than contacting pupils directly.

This helps us maintain a consistent and calm environment for learning.



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## How is the policy enforced?

Staff apply the policy calmly and consistently, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. If a phone is seen, heard or used in breach of the policy, this may include confiscation, secure storage and return at the end of the school day or to a parent/carer, depending on the school's published procedures. Repeated or serious misuse may lead to further action.

## Where can I find the full policy?

The full Mobile Phones in Schools Policy is available on the school website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school - we are always happy to discuss our approach.

We respectfully ask that all parents / carers refrain from using your own devices whilst on the school site.

Kind regards,

Mrs Charlotte Vernon  
Headteacher

