



# BABINGTON

## HOUSE SCHOOL

### **MOBILE PHONE POLICY** (Including EYFS)

### **Babington House School**

| Date of Policy | Review Date                                     | Reviewed By | Approved By    |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| September 2026 | September 2027 or sooner if legislation changes | E. Channon  | Governing Body |

Safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development at Babington House School.  
All systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

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| <b>RELATED POLICIES</b> |
| SAFEGUARDING POLICY     |
| BEHAVIOUR POLICY        |
| ONLINE SAFETY           |
| DATA PROTECTION POLICY  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Key documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026</li> <li>• DfE <i>Mobile Phones in Schools</i> Statutory Guidance, effective 1 September 2026.</li> <li>• Working to Safeguard Children 2026</li> </ul> |

## Policy Statement

Babington House School is committed to providing a calm, safe, inclusive and focused learning environment in which all pupils can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Mobile Phones in Schools* (effective from 1 September 2026), Babington House School operates as a **mobile phone-free environment by default**. Pupils must not have access to mobile phones or similar smart devices during the school day except in exceptional circumstances authorised by the Headteacher.

This policy supports our safeguarding responsibilities under **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026**, including the prevention of online harms, cyberbullying, image-based abuse, inappropriate photography, AI-generated abuse, exploitation and disruption to learning.

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## Aims

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard children from online and offline harm.
  - Promote positive behaviour and engagement in learning.
  - Reduce distraction and disruption.
  - Improve wellbeing and healthy social interaction.
  - Prevent cyberbullying and misuse of technology.
  - Protect privacy and dignity.
  - Ensure compliance with KCSIE 2026 and DfE statutory guidance.
  - Provide clear expectations for pupils, staff and parents.
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## Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy has been developed with reference to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.
- DfE Statutory Guidance: *Mobile Phones in Schools* (June 2026).
- Behaviour in Schools Guidance.
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools.
- Education Act 1996.
- Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.
- Equality Act 2010.

The DfE expects schools to prohibit access to mobile phones throughout the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtimes. Schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.

All students bringing a mobile phone to school will be required to place their mobile phone into a secure, locked Yondr pouch in the presence of staff. This will be unlocked as they exit the school.

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## Scope

For the purposes of this policy, "mobile phones and smart devices" include:

- Mobile phones.
- Smartphones.
- Smartwatches capable of communication, internet access or photography.
- Devices capable of sending or receiving messages.
- Devices capable of recording audio, images or video.
- Devices capable of accessing social media or the internet.
- Any similar emerging technology.

The School reserves the right to apply this policy to future technologies which perform similar functions.

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## Expectations by Age Phase

### EYFS (Ages 3-5)

Children in EYFS must not bring mobile phones or smart devices to school.

Any necessary communication will take place through parents/carers and school staff.

## **Primary Phase (Ages 5-11)**

Pupils should not bring mobile phones to school unless agreed by parents and school leadership due to travel arrangements or exceptional circumstances in Year 6.

Where a phone is brought to school:

- It must be switched off before entering school grounds.
- It must be handed in to the designated member of staff upon arrival.
- It will be securely stored in a lockable box, kept in the office during the school day.
- It will be returned at the end of the school day.

Smartwatches with communication functionality are not permitted.

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## **Secondary Phase (Ages 11-16)**

Pupils may bring a mobile phone to school where necessary for travel and safety reasons.

However:

- Phones must be switched off before entering school.
- Phones must not be seen, heard or used during the school day.
- Phones must remain stored in the school Yondr pouches.
- Smartwatches capable of communication are treated as mobile phones under this policy.

Pupils must not access phones during:

- Lessons.
  - Tutor time.
  - Movement between lessons.
  - Breaks.
  - Lunchtimes.
  - Enrichment activities within the school day.
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## **Exceptional Circumstances**

Reasonable adjustments may be made where required under the Equality Act 2010.

Exceptions may include:

- Medical conditions.
- Disability-related needs.

- Specific safeguarding arrangements.
- Individual risk assessments.
- Educational health care plans (EHCPs).

Any exception must:

- Be documented.
- Be approved by the Headteacher.
- Be reviewed regularly.

The School will ensure adjustments remain proportionate, necessary and in the child's best interests.

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## **7. Prohibited Use**

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Making calls.
- Sending messages.
- Using social media.
- Gaming.
- Internet browsing.
- Recording audio.
- Taking photographs.
- Recording video.
- Livestreaming.
- Sharing images.
- Using AI applications to create, alter or distribute images of others.
- Accessing inappropriate content.
- Using devices to bully, intimidate or harass.

Any misuse may be treated as a safeguarding concern and may lead to disciplinary action.

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## **Safeguarding**

The School recognises that mobile phones can facilitate:

- Cyberbullying.
- Peer-on-peer abuse.
- Sexual harassment.
- Image-based abuse.
- Sharing of indecent images.
- AI-generated deepfakes and manipulated content.

- Grooming and exploitation.
- Harmful online challenges.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.

Staff will respond to concerns in accordance with the Babington House School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and KCSIE 2026 requirements.

Where concerns involve:

- Nude or semi-nude images.
- AI-generated intimate imagery.
- Criminal activity.
- Sexual violence or harassment.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be informed immediately.

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## **Searches and Confiscation**

Staff may confiscate a mobile phone where:

- A pupil breaches this policy.
- A safeguarding concern exists.
- There is reasonable suspicion that a device contains evidence of misconduct.

Confiscation will be carried out proportionately and in accordance with statutory guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

Where appropriate:

- Devices may be searched by authorised staff.
  - Parents may be informed.
  - The DSL may be consulted.
  - Police involvement may be sought where criminal offences are suspected.
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# Sanctions

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with through the Behaviour Policy.

Possible responses include:

## First Incident

- Reminder of expectations.
- Device confiscated until the end of the day.
- Behaviour sanctions, e.g. twenty minute detention.

## Repeated Incidents

- Extended confiscation.
- Parent notification.
- Behaviour sanctions, e.g. leadership detention.

## Serious Misuse

Including photography, filming, cyberbullying or safeguarding breaches:

- Immediate confiscation.
- Safeguarding referral.
- Suspension where appropriate.
- Police referral if required.

The sanction will always be proportionate to the seriousness of the incident.

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## 11. Educational Visits

The Educational Visits Leader may authorise limited use of phones during visits where necessary for:

- Safety.
- Communication.
- Travel arrangements.

Specific expectations will be communicated before the visit.

Babington House School reserves the right to prohibit phones entirely on any trip.

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## Staff Use of Mobile Phones

Staff must:

- Follow the Staff Code of Conduct.
- Keep personal phones secure during teaching time.
- Use personal devices only in accordance with safeguarding expectations.
- Never use personal devices to photograph pupils.
- Use school-approved systems where photography or communication is required.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in the EYFS (Nursery and Reception classrooms and outside area).

Staff must not share personal contact information with pupils.

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### 13. Visitors and Contractors

Visitors are expected to:

- Follow safeguarding requirements.
- Refrain from photographing or recording pupils unless authorised.
- Use devices responsibly while on site.

Babington House School School may require devices to be stored or switched off in particular areas – for example in the EYFS areas.

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## Parents and Carers

Parents are asked to support this policy by:

- Avoiding direct contact with pupils during the school day via mobile phone.
- Contacting the school office when urgent communication is required.
- Reinforcing the school's expectations regarding safe and responsible technology use.
- Supporting sanctions where policy breaches occur.

Urgent messages will always be passed to pupils through normal school procedures.

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## Storage and Liability

Babington House School will take reasonable care of devices handed in or stored under school procedures.

However:

- Pupils bring devices to school at their own risk.
  - The School cannot guarantee against loss, theft or damage.
  - Parents are encouraged to consider insurance arrangements where appropriate.
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## 16. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually to ensure continued compliance with:

- KCSIE.
- DfE statutory guidance.
- Safeguarding requirements.
- Emerging technologies and online risks.

The Headteacher will monitor implementation and report significant concerns or trends to Governors.

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