



Mobile Phones and Personal Devices

September 2026

Following consultation with parents across the Hexham Partnership of Schools, Sele First School has established the following approach to mobile phones and personal devices.

Our expectation, and that of the Hexham Partnership of Schools, is that children will not be given access to a smartphone by their parents/carers. Instead, they may choose to provide a non-smart 'brick' phone.

Year 4 children may bring a non-smart 'brick' phone to school when parents/carers feel it is needed to support their safety if they walk to or from school alone as they prepare for middle school.

If you wish your child to bring a phone to school, formal written consent is needed from a parent/carer, giving notification and permission for bringing the phone into school.

Pupils must not have access to mobile phones or other personal smart devices during the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Non-smart 'brick' phones must be handed into office staff on arrival at school, after the bell is rung and before going to the classroom. The phone will be signed into school, confirming it has been switched off, and locked in the school office during the day. Children can collect their phone from the office from 3.15pm at the end of the school day, signing it out again.

For the purposes of this policy, personal smart devices include smartwatches and other devices with similar communication or recording functions.

If children attend SSC before and/or after school, the phone is to be signed in/out in SSC.

If attending a morning session, children must sign to confirm the phone is switched off and handed in. Club staff will then hand it to office staff to lock away.

If attending an afternoon session, club staff will collect phones from the office at 3.00pm. Club staff will hand back phones to parents/carers on collection. Parents/carers will be asked to sign the phone back out.

In exceptional circumstances, e.g. for a medical reason such as diabetes monitoring, a parent/carer may write to the Headteacher requesting special dispensation for a smartphone or other device. Where an exception is agreed, access to the device will be limited to the specific purpose, times and arrangements agreed by the Headteacher.

If a pupil is found to have a mobile phone or other personal smart device during the school day without an agreed exception, the device will be confiscated and stored securely in

accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. Parents/carers will be informed where appropriate.

This policy should be read alongside the Sele First School Acceptable Use Policy 2025–2026 and Behaviour Policy. All families complete the Acceptable Use Agreement annually in the Autumn term.