



Smartphone- Free: Mobile Phone Policy

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Xavier Catholic Education

**Committee Responsible: Risk & Audit Committee
To be reviewed in July 2028**

Xavier Catholic Education Trust Statement

In accordance with the Xavier Catholic Education Trust Primary Behaviour Policy and Xavier principles¹, St. Francis Catholic primary school believes the right way to behave is to ensure everyone is safe, ready to learn and respectful of others and the school.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions are used:

Wherever the term 'smartphone' is used this refers to a "mobile phone or smartwatch that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps."

Wherever the term 'basic mobile phone' is used this refers to a "mobile phone that can make and receive calls and text messages."

St. Francis Catholic Primary Statement

At St. Francis Catholic primary school, we believe that whilst mobile phones can be used positively, their use by children with developing minds should be carefully limited. Allowing access to mobile phones in school introduces complexity and risks, including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse, and can be a detriment to learning. By removing smartphones and limiting mobile phone access throughout the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected.

By removing smartphones and limiting mobile phone access throughout the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices.

We believe that a smartphone-free school will be a more inclusive school environment and our pupils can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers - activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

¹ See p.1 Xavier Primary Behaviour Policy

Rules

Our rules on the use of mobile phones are as follows:

Pupils are **not** allowed smartphones / smartwatches on the school premises. This includes any other smart technology with similar functionality (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video).

Year 6 pupils are allowed to bring in a basic mobile-phone². The purpose of this is solely to be able to communicate with priority/emergency contacts when walking to and from school.

The 'basic' mobile phone must be switched off at all times while on the school premises and placed in the class phone-box during morning registration. This is then stored in a locked box located in the school office. Phones are returned to the children before the end of the school day.

Failure to adhere to the rules may lead to the phone being confiscated.

Schools have legal duties to support pupils with medical conditions and to take reasonable steps to avoid disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices on mobile phones. We shall assess each case for adjustments or adaptations on its own merits.

Trips

Pupils' educational experience on a school trip will not be disrupted by the presence of mobile phones. Pupils are not allowed to bring any mobile devices or smart technology on a school trip.

St. Francis Breakfast club:

Pupils are to hand in their device to a breakfast club supervisor. This will then be stored in the phone lock-box.

² This mobile must **not** be able to take photos or videos. See Appendix 1 for approved devices.

St. Francis After School club:

Pupils who are attending after school club are not permitted to bring in a mobile device as they shall be collected by a parent/guardian.

External club providers: Pupils must keep their mobile device in their school bag switched off. Failure to do so will result in confiscation of the device.

. Appendix 1: 'Basic mobile phone' approved by Senior Leadership Team and governing body:



Nokia 105 £19.99

Sim-free mobile phone

When you purchase a SIM card for your child's phone, make sure that it has NO DATA roaming, only calls and texts so that there is no chance that they can access the internet.