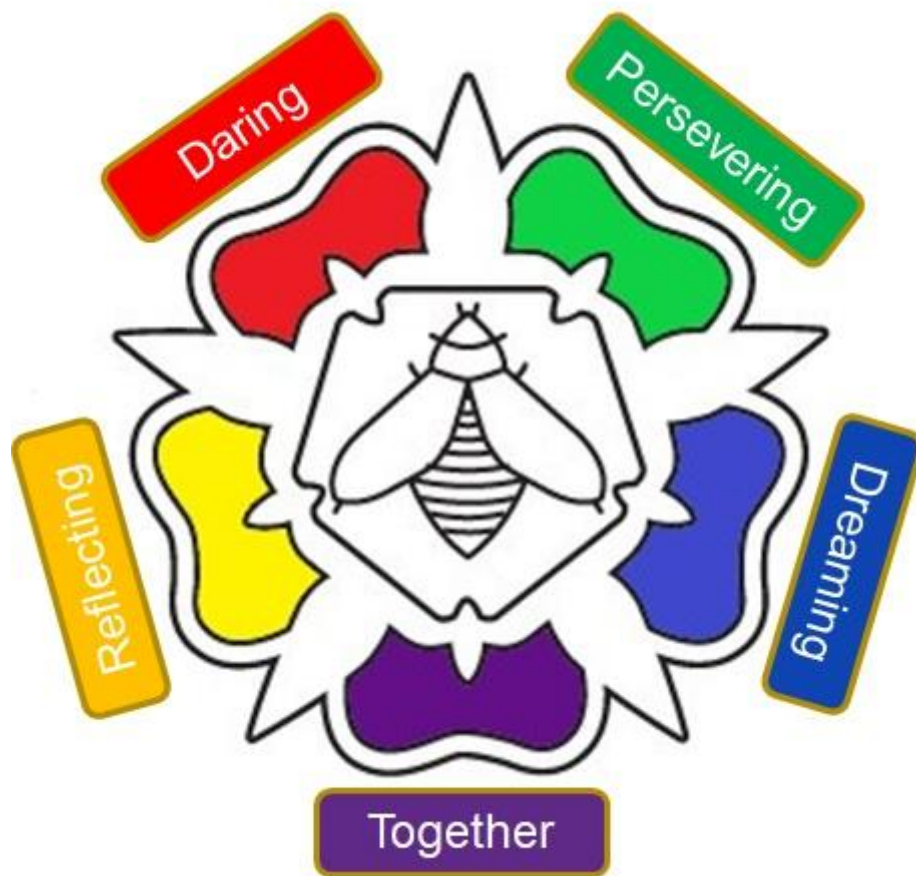


Round Hill Primary School



Dream, believe, achieve together.

PUPIL USE OF MOBILE PHONES/ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT POLICY
Updated December 2025

Round Hill Primary School
Policy on Pupil Use of Mobile Phones and Smart Devices
Updated: December 2025

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy sets out rules regarding pupils bringing mobile phones and smart devices to school. It aims to safeguard children, reduce incidents linked to inappropriate online activity, and support parents in managing technology use at home.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Internet Acceptable Use Policy

2. Policy Statement

Pupils are **NOT permitted** to bring **smartphones** or wear **smartwatches** to school.

This decision is based on:

- Increasing incidents of inappropriate social media use, including racist and homophobic comments and bullying via WhatsApp groups.
- Evidence of negative mental and physical health impacts associated with early smartphone use.
- The need to safeguard pupils and support parents who choose not to provide smart devices.

3. Permitted Devices

- Year 6 pupils who walk home alone may bring a basic mobile phone that can only make calls and send/receive text messages.
- These phones must:
 - Be switched off during the school day.
 - Be handed to the class teacher at the start of the day.
 - Not be used on school premises.
- The school accepts **no responsibility** for loss or damage to personal devices.

4. Exceptions

Smartphones may only be permitted in exceptional medical circumstances (e.g., diabetes management) with prior approval from the Head Teacher.

5. Breach and confiscation

Pupils in breach of the policy: device is confiscated, parent/carer advised, stored securely and only returned to a parent/carer. Sanctions may be applied in line with the school's behaviour policy.

6. Educational Visits

Mobile phones and recording devices are **not permitted** during educational visits, including calls or texts to parents. If a pupil needs to contact home, this will be arranged by staff.

7. Social Media Guidance

- Pupils must not have WhatsApp accounts or join WhatsApp groups. Breaches will be reported to the platform and accounts will be requested for removal.
- Apps such as WhatsApp, TikTok, and Snapchat have age restrictions for safeguarding purposes.

8. Rationale and Research

Current recommendations suggest that children should not have a smartphone until **Year 9**. Research shows that early smartphone use can negatively affect mental health, physical health, and social development.

Round Hill Primary School supports the “**Smartphone-Free Childhood**” initiative and will provide further information and opportunities for parents to engage with this movement.

9. Contacting Pupils

In an emergency, parents/carers should contact pupils via the school office:

Tel: 0115 917 9262 | **Email:** office@roundhill.notts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Adrian Nash

Date of Implementation: September 2024 (updated December 2025)

Appendix 1



Round Hill Primary School
'Dream, believe, achieve together'

- ✓ Reflecting
- ✓ Daring
- ✓ Persevering
- ✓ Dreaming
- ✓ Together

Round Hill Primary School
Foster Avenue
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Nottingham NG9 1AE
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www.roundhill.notts.sch.uk

23rd July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Personal Smart Phones Banned from September 2024

Over the last 12 months we have dealt with an ever increasing number of issues due to children's inappropriate use of social media or because they are accessing inappropriate material on certain apps, accessed through their smart phones - these have often been upsetting for those involved.

We have spent a lot of time educating the children around these issues, which is an important part of our curriculum, however dealing with the individual issues is taking an increasing amount of school time. **We really need your support at home to reinforce this message from home too.** Children in primary school should not be accessing several of the apps they are using and in many cases are not mature enough to manage the consequences of these appropriately.

From September, children will NOT be allowed to bring a smart phone or wear a smart watch to school. We hope to limit the issues both in and out of school (such as the racist and homophobic comments as well as incidents of bullying that are being made using WhatsApp groups). We also want to support the parents who choose not to let their child have a smart device yet.

Year 6 children only, who walk home on their own, will be allowed what is widely known as a 'dumb' phone, which allows them to simply make phone calls and receive messages. These are the basic Nokia or Motorola phones that were available prior to smart phones. These can be purchased new for roughly £20, this is a massive saving compared to the price of a new smart phone and will still enable children to be contactable when walking to and from school. (Note: these must still be turned off at all times and not be used on school premises.)

Put simply - to continue to successfully safeguard our children, we are **not permitting** children to bring smart phones to school from September (unless there is a specific medical need, such as diabetes).

We appreciate that it is a parent's right to choose when their child receives a smart phone and many parents have concerns when deciding whether or not to give their children a smart phone – indeed there is also growing evidence which shows that smart phone use in childhood has damaging negative mental and physical effects on long-term health. The recommended time for a child to have a smart phone is Year 9.

Some of our parents are joining together in pledging to support a new initiative 'A Smartphone Free Childhood'. We would like to support these parents and most importantly support safeguarding around phones and social media. We will be sending out further information on this initiative and inviting parents to a meeting early in the Autumn Term.

Apps such as WhatsApp, ~~TikTok~~ and Snapchat, as part of their terms of service, have age restrictions. These are put in place to in order to safeguard children and young teenagers. The children at Round Hill have now all been told a few weeks ago, that they cannot have a WhatsApp account or be part of any WhatsApp Group. If any child is found to breach this, we will report them to the social media company and have their account closed/removed.

I hope that parents/carers will see the benefits of our new approach and support each other, together as a community, to reduce the negative side effects and overuse of smart devices in younger children.

Yours faithfully

Adrian Nash

Head Teacher

