



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A MEMBER OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

12th October 2026

Mobile Phones and Smart Technology

Dear Parents/Carers,

A ban on smartphones (*and other smart technology devices*) in schools in England came into force on Monday, 29th June, making individual schools and trusts legally responsible for being phone-free throughout the day.

The legislation makes clear that individual schools can devise their own approach to allow mobile phones onto site in certain circumstances, so long as they are not used, seen, or heard by the pupils during the school day.

St. Bernadette's has a long-established approach to managing pupils' mobile phones on site during the school day, and which already adhered to the latest legal requirements.

This approach is outlined in our '**Mobile Phone Policy**' which has recently been approved by the academy's Local Governing Body, and which is attached to this letter. The policy can also be found on our website. **It is very important that all parents read the policy and ensure that it is adhered to each day.** The support and cooperation of parents in helping the school to manage this policy, and ultimately to safeguard your children, is essential.

Staff have shared the school's approach with the children since we returned in September and we issue periodic reminders to the children about this.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M. Strong,
Headteacher

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mobile Phone Policy

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Mobile Phone Policy

This policy operates in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church¹
and our Academy Mission Statement².

Approved by: the Local Governing Body, Advent Term 2026.
Next Review: Advent Term 2027.

¹ The teachings of the Catholic Church are detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church published by the Catholic Truth Society, London, an Official Publisher to The Holy See.

² The Academy Mission Statement is located on page 5 of this policy and on our website.

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

Contents

	Page
Mission Statement	4
Patron Saint	5
Statement of the Department for Education	6
Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school	7
Expectations for pupils for bringing a mobile phone to school	7
Rules for pupils for bringing a mobile phone to school	7
The use of sanctions	8
Searching pupils	8
Use of mobile phones outside of the school day	8
The role of staff	8
The role of parents	9
Communicating the policy to parents	9
Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments	9
A prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis	10



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus said: "I AM the Light of the World."

By the Light of Jesus Christ, God reveals to each of us who He is.
God is Love, and His Love is revealed in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.
God's Love is revealed in His Creation, in our beautiful world, in His Holy Catholic Church, in our families, in our friends, and in every human person, and we welcome all in the Holy Name of Jesus.

At St. Bernadette's, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God to each of our families, created in His own image and likeness so as to radiate His Love, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

We believe that every child has been blessed by God's Grace to know Him and love Him, and to know of God's infinitely deep and abiding Love for each of His children.

Upon entering our academy, children are welcomed into a loving, caring, safe, and nurturing environment, beginning a journey with us through which they will grow and mature, blossom and flourish.

We help our families to form their children by providing a well-rounded education, full of challenge and rigour; fun and creativity; excitement and wonder.

'Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world'

Our academy motto expresses our firm and enduring commitment to endeavour for excellence.
We believe that every child has been created by God to strive for excellence in all aspects of life, and when united in friendship with Jesus, they are empowered to reflect the Light of Christ to the world.

Jesus said: "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

"I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full."

JESUS IS 'THE WAY' so let us walk in His footsteps of Love and Friendship, and follow His example of Goodness.

JESUS IS 'THE TRUTH' so let us listen to what He says, believe His teachings, and profess His Gospel.

JESUS IS 'THE LIFE' so let us live by His commandments to love God, and love our neighbour.

When we do these things, Jesus will help us to lead the life He wants us to have, 'and have it to the full'.
Just as Jesus said that He is 'the Cornerstone' on which we should build our whole lives, in the same way, our Cornerstone Values, centred on Christ, provide the firm foundation for all that we do in our academy.

OUR CORNERSTONE VALUES

LOVE	To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us.
VIRTUE AND GOODNESS	To grow in virtue, becoming more like Jesus in what we think, say, and do. To be well-behaved and well-mannered; courteous and polite; considerate and helpful; kind and forgiving.
PRAYER AND SERVICE	To be friends with Jesus through prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship of God. To live the Gospel in service of others – our family, academy, parish, the wider community, and in charitable outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves; the poor, the disadvantaged, and the suffering.
RADIANCE	To enkindle our God-given gifts and talents, so that we may shine like bright stars for all to see.
JOY	To aspire to be happy, cheerful, and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic.
WONDER	To be inspired by a spirit of enquiry and wonder, taking delight in creativity and discovery.
EXCELLENCE	To strive for excellence, and have high aspirations to work hard and achieve our very best.

We believe that every child is unique and special, created by God for a special reason, with a unique mission – a vocation which God is calling them towards – and we believe that God has blessed each child with the character, gifts, and talents to help them succeed and be happy in their mission.

At St. Bernadette's, it is our honour and our passion to help, support, and encourage each child to fulfil their God-given potential, and ready them to contribute positively to society in service of others.

Walking in footsteps of love with Jesus, following the example of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, may each child come to know of their special place in God's Heart, and when 'Heart speaks unto heart', may each child have the trust and confidence to pray the words of this prayer by Saint John Henry Newman:

'God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.'



Patron Saint

Saint Carlo Acutis

We ask and pray for the guiding and sustaining influence and powerful intercession of this holy saint in the implementation of this policy for our academy.



Saint Carlo Acutis (A.D. 1991 – A.D. 2006) was born in London, England on 3rd May 1991. Later that year, his parents moved to Milan, Italy where from a young age he developed a great interest in the beauty of Catholic churches. At age 7, he received his First Holy Communion and was often seen praying to Jesus in the Tabernacle before and after Holy Mass. Carlo described the Holy Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist as his '*highway to Heaven*' saying '*the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.*' Carlo went to weekly Confession and also enjoyed visiting the church of Saint Francis in Assisi. He was also known to give away his pocket money to the poor, he spoke up in defence of the disabled, and often invited disadvantaged children to his house to help them.

Like many young people of his generation, Carlo loved technology. By the end of primary school he had taught himself computer programming and how to code and build websites. He was fascinated by the power of the internet but instead of using it for self-promotion, he saw it as a tool to share the Gospel. At age 11, Carlo began creating a website which catalogued Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions from around the world. His project grew into an international exhibition that continues to inspire parishes and schools today. He believed the internet could be used to bring people closer to God if it was used wisely.

The Internet is a gift from God, but like all gifts, it must be used responsibly.

Saint Carlo Acutis, Patron Saint of the Internet, Computer Programmers, and Young People

Carlo's life challenges us to use digital tools with purpose, integrity, prudence, and wisdom. Mobile phones, social media, streaming, and online activity can spread light or darkness depending on how we use them. Carlo believed that the internet can be a place where the Christian faith and the Love, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of God can be presented to people who may never go to church. His example invites us to ask: Are we using the internet to grow closer to Christ, to share Truth, to show love to our neighbour through help and encouragement? Or are we letting it distract us from the life God wants us to lead?

At the young age of 15, after suffering from leukaemia, Carlo died on 12th October 2006. This is the day the Catholic Church now celebrates Carlo's feast day as a saint of the Church. His life is a beacon of hope for a generation longing to find God in the digital age. May he continue to inspire us to live lives of virtue, devotion, and service to others, as we seek to follow Jesus faithfully in the footsteps of this modern-day saint.

Statement of the Department for Education

**The Department for Education (DfE)
expects schools to implement a policy
whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone
throughout the school day including
during lessons, the time between lessons,
breaktimes, and lunchtime.**

This policy has been written to adhere to
Statutory Guidance – Mobile Phones in Schools
(29th June 2026)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

Prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school

Our academy is a mobile phone-free environment (anything other than this is by exception only). This policy prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (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) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime.

Expectations for pupils for bringing a mobile phone to school

- ❖ The Mobile Phone Policy will be discussed with pupils on the first day of school in September and reminders will be given throughout the academic year.
- ❖ The purpose of the policy will be discussed with pupils to ensure that they understand the measures taken by school to prohibit the use of mobile phones on site due to risks they may pose (e.g. loss of focus, disruption in class, increase in bullying).
- ❖ Staff will discuss the positives of a mobile phone-free environment with pupils.
- ❖ Consequences and sanctions for not following the policy will be made clear.
- ❖ Pupils will also be taught the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones outside of school.

Rules for pupils for bringing a mobile phone to school

- ❖ No pupils in Classes 1–9 (Nursery–Year 4) should bring a mobile phone to school.
- ❖ Only pupils in Classes 10, 11, and 12 (Years 5 and 6) are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school if they are expected to make their own journey to or from school without adult supervision.
- ❖ Pupils in Classes 10, 11, and 12 are not permitted to bring a mobile phone to school if they are escorted to and from school with an adult.
- ❖ Smart watches and other smart technology are not permitted in school.
- ❖ School staff are allowed to challenge pupils as to why they have brought a mobile phone to school.
- ❖ If a child brings a mobile phone to school, this must be turned off at the gate on entry to the school site and placed in their pocket.
- ❖ When entering the classroom, the mobile phone must be handed in immediately to the teacher holding responsibility for the class that morning.
- ❖ Mobile phones will be held in a locked cupboard/drawer in the classroom.
- ❖ Mobile phones will be handed back to the children at 3.00 p.m. at the end of the school day.
- ❖ Mobile phones are not to be switched back on until the pupil has exited the school site gate and is back onto Anne's Crescent.
- ❖ The academy and its staff take no responsibility and will not be held accountable for the damage of any mobile phones that are brought onto the school site.

(continued)

The use of sanctions

When a pupil does not adhere to the above rules for bringing a mobile phone to school then the below steps will be taken:

- ❖ The mobile phone will be confiscated by any member of the academy's staff and will be passed to the Headteacher who will keep the phone until it is collected by the pupil's parent or carer.
- ❖ The Headteacher will decide on a suitable internal sanction for the pupil to undertake.
- ❖ A second breach of the rules will result in a pupil being permanently banned from bringing their mobile phone to school. Dependent on circumstance, exceptions may be made at the Headteacher's discretion.

Searching pupils

- ❖ The Headteacher, or staff he authorizes, will search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.
- ❖ Staff should refer to the [searching, screening and confiscation in schools](#) guidance regarding searching a pupil.

Use of mobile phones outside of the school days

- ❖ The academy will decide how they manage the risk of mobile phones on residential trips and this will be communicated to parents when relevant.
- ❖ Other than the above, the academy holds no responsibility for pupils' use of mobile phones outside of the school day.
- ❖ The academy is not responsible for intervening in the use of social media or mobile phones outside of the school day.
- ❖ The academy will educate its pupils on themes such as the safe use of technology, online safety, and bullying.

The role of staff

- ❖ All staff will consistently enforce the academy's policy on the use of mobile phones.
- ❖ Staff should not use their own mobile phone (or any other smart technology) for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.

(continued)

The role of parents

- ❖ Parents are encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.
- ❖ If needed due to an emergency, parents can contact their child during the school day by contacting the Academy Office.
- ❖ The academy would advise that parents carefully monitor their child's use of a mobile phone, or any other smart technology, and adhere to the current age restrictions on social media platforms.

Communicating the policy to parents

- ❖ This policy will be introduced to all parents via a dedicated letter.
- ❖ The policy will be published on the academy's website.
- ❖ The policy will be shared with pupils in an age-appropriate way during September and reminders will be given throughout the year.

Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments

The paragraphs below are taken from the *Statutory Guidance – Mobile Phones in Schools* (29th June 2026).

Schools have a duty under the [Equality Act 2010](#) to take such steps as is reasonable to avoid substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices. Allowing a disabled pupil access to their mobile phone during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability, may be considered a reasonable adjustment and a failure to do so may be a breach of the school's duty.

Maintained schools and academies have a duty under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) to have arrangements in place to support pupils with medical conditions. In meeting this duty, the governing body, proprietor or management committee must have regard to the statutory guidance [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#). In some circumstances, supporting a pupil with their medical condition can involve the use of a mobile phone. For example, pupils with diabetes might use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar levels. Where mobile phone use allows pupils to manage their medical condition effectively, it would not be reasonable for a school to prevent this.

Beyond these specific duties, schools should recognise that a need for mobile phone access for some pupils may depend on their individual circumstances, including at home. Schools should allow flexibility in their policy for these pupils and consider including arrangements in other relevant policies (such as a young carers policy).

Allowing flexibility for individual pupils does not mean that these pupils should be exempt from all restrictions on the use of their mobile phone. Schools should develop practices that enable pupils to use their mobile phone for a specific purpose at specific times and locations.

6 A Prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis

The Prayer to Saint Carlo Acutis invokes the young saint's intercession to help us recognize Christ's Holy Presence in the Eucharist, to use our talents in service to others, and navigate today's digital world with prudence, wisdom, and charity. Through Saint Carlo's guidance, we seek to use technology as a tool for evangelization and bring others closer to Christ through our witness.

Saint Carlo died of acute leukaemia in 2006 at the young age of 15. He was canonized by Pope Leo XIV on 7th September 2025, making him the first of the millennial generation to be made a saint.

O Lord God, You have given us in Saint Carlo Acutis
a model of virtue and holiness for our digital age.

We thank you for making him an inspiration to young people
through his devotion to the Eucharist, his love for the poor,
and his ability to use modern means to spread the Gospel.

Saint Carlo Acutis, friend of God and servant of the poor,
intercede for us before the throne of grace.
Help us to recognize Christ's Holy Presence in the Eucharist,
to use our talents in service of others,
and to navigate the digital world
with prudence, wisdom, and charity.

Like you, may each of us proclaim that
'the Eucharist is my highway to heaven'
and strive to live in constant communion with Our Lord.

Guide us to use technology as a tool for evangelization
and to bring others closer to Christ
through our faithful witness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak...

The Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verses 1-2 and 6-7

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