



WREN'S NEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Key Policy 2026-2027

Use of Mobile Phones for Pupil Glucose Monitoring September 2026

Document to be read in conjunction with other key school policies

Use of Mobile Phones for Pupil Glucose Monitoring

Rationale

A small number of pupils require real-time glucose monitoring to manage diabetes or similar medical conditions. Modern systems typically use a sensor worn on the pupil's arm which transmits glucose readings to a linked device, often a smartphone running a clinically approved app.

The Department for Education's *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance (GOV.UK) sets a clear expectation that schools should restrict or prohibit mobile phone use during the school day to support behaviour, reduce distraction, and safeguard pupils. However, the guidance also confirms that reasonable adjustments must be made for pupils with medical conditions where a mobile phone is required for health-related monitoring.

This document explains how the school will implement and manage such exceptions safely, lawfully, and without undermining the school's behaviour culture.

DfE Guidance on the Use of Mobile Phones in Schools

The GOV.UK guidance states:

- Schools should restrict or ban mobile phones during the school day.
- Policies should be clear, communicated, and consistently enforced.
- Schools must consider adaptations and reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND or medical needs.
- Where a mobile phone is required for a medical device (e.g., glucose monitoring), this is a legitimate exception.
- Any permitted use must be controlled, risk-assessed, and not undermine behaviour expectations.

The guidance also emphasises:

- Safeguarding risks associated with smartphones.
- The need to prevent distraction, bullying, and inappropriate content.
- The importance of staff modelling appropriate mobile phone behaviour.

Implementing Permissible Use of a Mobile Phone

To ensure compliance with DfE expectations, the school will:

- Maintain a Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Asthma Policy that includes a section on medical exceptions.

- Communicate expectations clearly to parents, pupils, staff, governors, and visitors.
- Include staff mobile phone expectations within the ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- Implement a Behaviour Agreement with parents where a pupil requires a smartphone for glucose monitoring.
- Ensure staff understand how to respond to alerts and how the device should be stored or accessed.

Lawful Basis and the Schools Duties

The school's decision to permit controlled mobile phone use for medical monitoring is supported by:

- Equality Act 2010 – duty to make reasonable adjustments.
- Children and Families Act 2014 – supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 – ensuring safe practice.
- Common Law Duty of Care.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE).
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) – updated annually.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Education Act 2002 / Childcare Act 2006 – lawful bases for processing pupil information.
- Limitation Act 1980 – record retention.

These frameworks support the school's obligation to ensure pupils' health needs are met while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment.

Managing the Exceptional Use of Mobiles

Where a pupil requires a smartphone to monitor glucose levels, the school will implement a Behaviour Agreement with parents/carers. This ensures clarity, safeguards against misuse, and aligns with DfE expectations that exceptions must not weaken behaviour standards.

Suggested clauses:

- The mobile phone is permitted solely for monitoring *[pupil name]*'s glucose levels via the *[device/app name]*.
- The phone must not be used for any other purpose (e.g., internet browsing, messaging, social media, gaming).
- The device must remain secure and accessible only to *[pupil/staff member]* as agreed.
- The phone must not be shared with other pupils.
- Any breach will be reviewed and may result in revised arrangements.
- Arrangements for off-site visits, residentials or non-school hours monitoring will be agreed in advance, including where staff temporarily take responsibility for monitoring alerts.

Restricting Access to Apps

To minimise distraction and comply with DfE expectations, the school may request that parents:

- Restrict access to non-essential apps using parental controls or passcodes.
- Limit the device to the glucose monitoring app only.
- Disable access to the App Store to prevent installation of additional apps.
- Ensure WiFi/Bluetooth remain enabled if required for sensor connectivity.
- Ensure notifications are configured so that only medical alerts are visible.

Any restrictions must not interfere with the safe functioning of the medical device.

The school will work collaboratively with parents to:

- Explain why restrictions are necessary.
- Ensure parents understand expectations placed on their child.
- Review arrangements regularly, especially if medical needs change.
- Maintain a balance between safeguarding, behaviour, and the pupil's health needs.

This partnership approach ensures that mobile phone use for medical monitoring remains safe, appropriate, and non-disruptive.

Alignment with Whole-School Behaviour Culture

The DfE guidance emphasises that mobile phone restrictions support:

- Positive behaviour
- Reduced distraction
- Improved safeguarding
- A calm learning environment

By managing medical exceptions through structured agreements and clear expectations, the school ensures that:

- The exception does not undermine behaviour standards.
- Staff and pupils understand the boundaries.
- The school remains compliant with national guidance.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the following school policies and documents, which collectively set out the school's expectations for behaviour, safeguarding, data protection, and medical support:

- Mobile Phone Policy
- Behaviour Policy

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy
- Data Protection Policy / Privacy Notices (Pupils and Parents)
- Educational Visits Policy
- Home–School Agreement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy