Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

To be a community of learners, believers and friends rooted in the values and teachings of the Gospel. We seek to enable every individual to develop his or her potential in the knowledge that they are uniquely created and loved by God.

Policy Agreed:	November 2026
Policy Review:	September 2027

1 Xavier Catholic Education Trust Statement

As part of our commitment to nurturing the holistic development of every student, the Xavier Catholic Education Trust is introducing a unified approach to mobile phone use across all its schools. This guidance is informed by emerging research, school-based experience, and a growing national and international movement to reduce smartphone dependency among young people.

2 Definitions

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

Wherever the term 'smartphone' is used this refers to a mobile phone 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 only make and receive calls and text messages.

3 Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School Statement

At Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School, we believe that the evidence from research regarding the impact of social media on the mental health, wellbeing and social development of our young people is robust and compelling. Which leads to the conclusion that the potential benefits provided by technology in the case of smartphones, is outweighed by the potential harm.
By removing smartphones from our school, we are supporting the scientific research that advises us to review and make a significant change to our behaviours around our mobile phone usage.
At Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School, we believe that by creating a smartphone-free school we are contributing to the reduction of smartphone use by our young people. Thus, creating a more inclusive school environment where our pupils can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with peers culminating in a positive impact on their wellbeing.

4 Steps to a Smartphone Free Environment

- Pupils are not to bring Smartphones on the school premises. This includes any other smart technology with similar functionality.

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

- The basic mobile phone must be switched off at all times while on the school premises. It must be handed into the office before entering the playground and collected from the office after the child has been dismissed from school.

- Failure to follow the policy will result in the phone being confiscated and a parent will need to collect it from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

5 Trips and After School Clubs

- Mobile devices or any smart technology are not permitted on any school trips.
- Basic mobile phones must be collected from the school office once they have been dismissed from the After School Club.