

1. School vision and values

FROM ALPHA TO OMEGA



‘Life in all its fullness’

(JOHN 10:10)

At Emmanuel Church of England School, broad opportunities are provided for individuals to develop their full potential and allow them to be healthy, happy and secure.

Building on our Christian ethos and in partnership with the whole school community, we provide a stimulating and caring environment where individuals are valued and nurtured morally, spiritually and academically.

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels cared for, valued, respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. This is promoted through our school values so that they can experience:

‘Life in all its fullness’ – John 10:10

2. Introduction

At Emmanuel, the wellbeing, safety and development of our pupils is our highest priority. We recognise that developing healthy digital habits is a shared responsibility between school and home, and we are committed to working in partnership with families to support children in using technology safely, responsibly and in balanced ways.

As part of our safeguarding commitment, the school supports the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and promotes a smartphone-free environment. Research increasingly highlights the potential risks associated with early smartphone use, including impacts on mental health, sleep, attention, exposure to harmful online content and increased vulnerability to cyberbullying. We believe that clear boundaries around technology use, alongside positive habits at home and school, help children to thrive socially, emotionally and academically.

3. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out the school’s approach to promoting balanced and responsible use of technology by pupils, both within school and in partnership with families at home. It aims to create a safe, focused and positive learning environment by reducing unnecessary distractions, supporting positive social interaction, and protecting pupils from online risks during the school day.

It also outlines the school’s expectations regarding smartphones and other personal digital devices on school premises, in line with our commitment to a smartphone-free environment and pupil wellbeing.

4. Promoting balanced digital use

At Emmanuel School, we recognise that helping children develop healthy relationships with technology is most effective when school and home work together consistently. We aim to support and reinforce the positive conversations and boundaries families establish around technology use.

Within school, technology is used purposefully to support teaching and learning through interactive tools and digital resources. However, the school also prioritises opportunities for pupils to learn, play and interact away from screens. Wet playtimes and many other parts of the school day are intentionally device-free to encourage conversation, creativity, physical activity and positive social interaction.

5. Phones and Personal Digital Devices in School

5.1 Smartphones

In line with the school's commitment to a smartphone-free environment, pupils are not permitted to bring smartphones onto school premises.

5.2 Basic ('brick') phones

Where a phone is required for travel safety or communication with parents and carers, families may provide a basic mobile phone capable only of voice calls and text messaging. These devices must not have internet access, social media, cameras, gaming functions or downloadable applications.

5.3 Storage during the school day

Any permitted phone must be switched off before entering the school grounds and handed into the school office immediately upon arrival. Phones will be stored securely during the school day and returned at the end of the day.

5.4 Smartwatches and connected devices

Smartwatches and other wearable devices with messaging, camera, internet, gaming or communication functions are not permitted in school. Devices with similar functionality to smartphones are not appropriate for use on school premises due to safeguarding, distraction and wellbeing concerns.

6. Safeguarding and digital education

Online safety education forms an important part of the Emmanuel School curriculum. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online, communicate respectfully, recognise risks, think critically about digital content, and seek help when needed. Alongside this, the school promotes balanced screen use, positive online behaviour, respectful communication and the importance of time away from devices to support sleep, focus, relationships and wellbeing.

While digital literacy is an important life skill, the school believes that limiting access to smartphones and social media during primary school provides an additional protective measure against online harms and supports healthier social and emotional development.

7. Working in partnership with parents and carers

We recognise that supporting children to develop healthy relationships with technology can be challenging in an increasingly digital world. Emmanuel School is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to promote consistent expectations and age-appropriate boundaries around screen use, smartphones, gaming and social media.

By working together as a school community, we can help reduce peer pressure around smartphone ownership, support families in making informed decisions about access to smartphones and social media, and encourage children to develop positive digital habits that will benefit them both now and in later life.

8. Further information and support

Parents and carers are encouraged to explore the resources available through the [Smartphone Free Childhood campaign](#).

The school will continue to share guidance and resources to support positive and balanced technology use at home, including advice on screen time, parental controls, gaming, online safety and age-appropriate digital access.

9. Dissemination of the policy

A copy of this policy is available on the school website.

The policy will be reviewed annually, and parents and carers will be informed of updates through the newsletter and school website.

Policy reviewed	July 2026
Agreed review schedule	1 year
Next review due	July 2027