



Pupil Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

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DSL:	Claire Dysart		

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Where possible, parents should discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones or other electronic devices, including smart watches, to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen. However, we recognise that in Year Six, mobile phones may have a part to play in securing pupils' personal safety on journeys to and from school.

PROCEDURES FOR PUPILS

Parents of Year Six pupils should be clear that, where parents have given permission to their child to bring a mobile phone to school, they do so entirely at their own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst the device is on school premises.

Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone to school, **the phone must be switched off as soon as they enter the school premises** and should not be used during the school day. Phones should be switched off **BEFORE** they enter the building and will be stored in a secure location, for example in a cupboard, out of reach; they will be returned at the end of the school day upon dismissal from class on the playground.

Mobile phones may not be used for any purpose on school premises, including in the playground before school. No photographs or videos are to be taken of peers whilst wearing school uniform on the way to or from school. Under no circumstances will pupils be allowed to take mobile phones on school outings.

There will be no access to phones during the school day and phones should not be left in pupils' bags, coats or folders. If a pupil needs to contact their parents/carers during the school day, they need to ask a member of staff to contact them via the school office. If parents need to contact children urgently, they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

Smart watches or other electronic devices should also be switched off before they enter the building and these will also be stored in a secure location; they will be returned at the end of the school day. Children are allowed to wear a simple analogue or digital watch that does not have access to the internet or smart technology.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Parents are asked to not use mobile phones whilst on school premises. This is to ensure you are present when dropping off or collecting your child. We also ask that mobile phones are not used whilst in the main office area as this can be distracting to others around.

Any photographs or videos taken during events should be for personal use only and not shared widely via social media. Parents may not have provided consent for their child's image to be publicly shared.

If you are part of a Parents WhatsApp group, please be mindful of what you are posting as messages can be misconstrued and cause offence to others.

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE, INCLUDING MOBILE PHONES, AND SANCTIONS.

If a pupil fails to switch off their mobile phone, uses it while on school premises (playground/building), or fails to hand it in when they enter the building, then their class teacher will alert their parents of an infringement of this policy. After the third infringement, the school will withdraw the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone to school and parents will be informed of this decision.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage onsite with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be involved from the outset. The phone will be confiscated, stored securely and parents will be required to collect the phone. The school will immediately withdraw the agreement to allow the pupil in question to bring their phone to school.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS

It is the parent or carer's responsibility to monitor their child's online profile; as a school, we do not and have not set up any social media or other online platforms (e.g. WhatsApp, Fortnite) for the children to use as a communication tool and nor do we police any groups that have been set up by the children with or without parental consent. As a school we strongly advise you to remove your child from group chats involving other children as the majority of these apps have a minimum age of 13 to access.

Since the rise in the use of technology, there have been and are issues and problems caused through the use of these platforms which are making their way into school. As a school, we will deal with any incidents in line with our behaviour policy which may, depending on the severity of the incident, result in a mobile phone ban for your child, loss of privileges such as representing the school at sporting events or a fixed term suspension.