

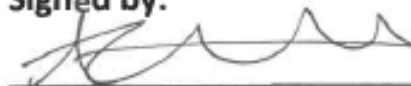


**Outwoods Edge
Primary School**

Every Child. Every Day. Every Future.

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy for Pupils

Signed by:


_____ Headteacher


_____ Governor

Date: 21.02.22

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Date of next review: February 2024

Aim

At Outwoods Edge Primary school, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools, with smart watches as an extension of this. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones and smart watches that cause the most concern, which can be both distracting and susceptible to misuse, including the taking and distribution of inappropriate images and cyberbullying.

We accept that many children have and use mobile phones at home and an increasing number have smart watches, but we would recommend that they are removed before bedtime to avoid distraction and conversations that cannot be monitored. Mobile phones and online communication platforms (such as WhatsApp) can play a significant role in online bullying and intimidation and, as a school, we take this very seriously. We want to work together in this regard to protect our pupils, including through the delivery of thorough e-safety education, which includes online/cyberbullying. We suggest that parents regularly monitor **all communication** via mobile phone to avoid misuse.

Personal Mobiles

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children (and smart watches as an extension of this) and that they can play an important role in helping pupils to feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can provide a means of bullying or intimidating others.

Therefore:

- Parents must sign the **Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Agreement** before bringing phones into school (Appendix A)
- Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones and Smart Watches into school if they are walking to or from school without parents
- The phone or smart watch must be handed in, switched off, to the class teacher and it will be stored securely throughout the day for safekeeping
- Whilst school staff will make every effort to ensure that the phone or smart watch is kept safely and securely, the item is left at the owner's own risk; school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage
- Pupils bringing phones or smart watches to school should ensure that items are appropriately labelled or easily recognisable
- Pupils should secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions; the same applies to smart watches where applicable
- Pupils must not take photographs or videos of either pupils or teachers whilst at school
- Phones and smart watches **must not be taken** on school trips/visits
- Where mobile phones or associated devices are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, the Anti-Bullying Policy will take effect

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone or smart watch of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to our Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Cyber Bullying policy as appropriate.

If a pupil is found to be in breach of this policy or our Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Agreement, we reserve the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their phone or smart watch into school.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Appendix A

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Agreement:

In accordance with our Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone or smart watch to school on a regular basis, please sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to hand their device to their class teacher first thing in the morning - it must be switched off.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone or smart watch
- Your child's phone or smart watch should be appropriately marked or labelled so that they can recognise it easily
- Should your child be found using their phone or smart watch inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring the device into school.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Reason for device being in school: _____

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to bring the above mentioned device into school.

I acknowledge that if he/she does not hand it in and/or uses the device inappropriately for calls, photographs, internet etc. the school will confiscate the phone accordingly. If a phone is confiscated, it will be returned **only to the parent/carer** at the end of the school day.

I understand that If my son/daughter is found to be in breach of our Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their device into school.

Name: _____ (parent/carer)

Signed: _____ Date: _____