



FACT

01689842268

www.factrust.org



Mobile/Smart Phones in School Policy

Reviewed: June 2024

Next review date: September 2025

The Trust's position on mobile/smart phones

The Trust does not believe that primary school aged children need to bring a mobile/smart phone, SMART Watch or any other electronic device, to school. No child will be allowed to bring a mobile phone to school before Year 5.

We strongly discourage parents of older children from allowing their children to bring mobile/Smart phones to school. However, we recognise that some parents allow children in Year 5 and Year 6 to travel to and from school without supervision and, for safety reasons, would like their children to bring a phone with them.

If a parent wishes their Year 5 or Year 6 child to bring a mobile/smart phone to school, they should complete the Permission to Bring a Mobile/Smart Phone to School form and be aware that the child's phone is to be given to the relevant member of staff on entering the school building, and will only be returned at the end of the school day.

If parents/carers want their child to bring a phone to school, they do so at their own risk. The school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to phones, under any circumstances.

Pupils are not permitted to wear a SMART watch.

Pupil use of phones on the school site

No child is allowed to use their phone on the school site, this includes the playground.

Children's phones must be turned off before entering the school gates. They will be collected by the class teacher at the start of the school day, stored and returned to the child at the end of the school day.

If a child is found to have used their phone on the school site, it will be removed by a member of staff, and will be returned when that child's parent/carer is able to collect it at a mutually convenient time for both the parent and school.

If images (still or video) of other children or staff are taken, this will be regarded as a serious breach of the school's behaviour expectations, and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be involved. The parent/carer will be contacted immediately and the school will insist that the images are deleted before the phone is returned. Other sanctions may also be used, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Parental control settings

We expect all parents/carers to set the parental control settings on their child's phone, so that they are not able to access inappropriate sites, content or apps.

If parents/carers choose not to set appropriate parental control settings, or choose to allow their child to access social media sites/apps, parents/carers must take responsibility for dealing with the consequences of this decision. We are keen to support parents who need help with the setting of restrictions on their children's phones.

Abusive behaviour, bullying and inappropriate use of electronic devices

In our Computing and PSHE programmes, we work with children to encourage safe and appropriate internet use. This includes work around online identity, information, cyber-bullying, and the safe use of online games and social media.

However, the school has no control over children's use of their devices outside school. We expect all parents to monitor their child's use of their devices closely and to take appropriate action themselves, if their child is the victim or perpetrator of abuse, bullying or inappropriate use of social media or online games.

If allegations of abusive, bullying or inappropriate use are shared with the school, we will contact the parents/carers of the children concerned, and expect them to deal with the matter.

Withdrawal of permission to bring a phone to school

Bringing a phone to school is a privilege not a right. If a child, or parent/carer, is found not to have complied with, or met the expectations of this policy, the school may withdraw this privilege and the child will no longer be able to bring a phone to school.

Appropriate Use of Electronic Devices meetings

During each academic year, the school will hold an 'Appropriate Use of Electronic Devices,' meeting for parents.

During this meeting, the school will share advice, guidance and information about keeping children safe online, appropriate internet use, cyber-bullying, etc. The school's policies and procedures will be shared, and parents/carers will have the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Head of School, who reports to governors, at each meeting, the number of cyber incidents related to mobile phones.



FACT

01689842268

www.factrust.org



Permission to Bring a Mobile/Smart Phone to School

- I/we give permission for _____ to bring their mobile/smart phone into school.
- I/we have read the school's Mobile/Smart Phones in School Policy, and fully understand its implications.
- I/we understand that the phone is brought to school at our own risk, and that the school will take no responsibility for any loss or damage to the phone, under any circumstances.
- I/we understand that our child must not use their phone on the school site; that all phones will be turned off and collected by the relevant staff member at the start of the school day, and returned at the end of the school day.
- I/we confirm that I/we have set appropriate parental control settings on the phone.
- I/we will monitor our child's use of their phone regularly, especially their activity on social media.
- I/we accept full responsibility for our child's use of their mobile/smart phone and agree to deal appropriately with any abusive, bullying or other inappropriate usage.
- I/we understand that bringing a phone to school is a privilege not a right, and that the school can, and will, withdraw that privilege if our child is found to be using their phone inappropriately.

Signed:

Date:

Relationship to child: