

Student Smart Devices Policy

Our school aims to provide a safe, respectful learning environment in which children can develop confidence, responsibility and independence. During the school day, children are in the care of the school and should learn to rely on established school routines and the adults around them rather than on continuous contact with home. This policy also seeks to protect the privacy and safeguarding of students and staff and to ensure that technology is used appropriately within the school environment.

1. Mobile phones, smart watches and other personal devices

Personal mobile phones are not permitted in school. This also applies to smart watches, cameras and other personal devices capable of making or receiving calls or messages, taking photographs, recording audio or video, or providing similar communication or recording functions.

Such devices can distract from learning, compromise the privacy of students and staff, and allow children to remain in direct contact with people outside school during the school day. If a child needs assistance or needs to contact home, this should be done through the school.

2. Trackers and location devices

Trackers and location devices must not be used to monitor a child or maintain contact with them during the school day. The school recognises that parents may choose to use such devices for their child's safety outside school.

An important part of children's development is gradually building independence and confidence. While at school, children should learn to rely on the adults and routines around them rather than feel that a parent or guardian is constantly monitoring them or immediately available through a device.

3. School-provided devices

School-provided laptops, tablets and other digital devices may be used in school for educational purposes and in accordance with school instructions. **Their use is governed by the school's Responsible Use of Digital Technology Policy.**

School-provided devices are learning tools and are made available to students to support their education.

4. Recording, safeguarding and privacy

Students must not photograph, film or make audio recordings of other students, members of staff or visitors unless this has been specifically authorised as part of a school activity. Any deliberate attempt to secretly or unlawfully record a member of staff will be treated as a serious matter and, depending on the circumstances, may be referred to the relevant authorities.

Everyone in school has a right to feel safe and to have their privacy respected. Unauthorised recordings can create safeguarding concerns, undermine trust and may breach data protection or other legal requirements.

5. Consequences

Any personal device brought to school or used in breach of this policy may be confiscated and, where appropriate, returned directly to a parent or guardian. Misuse of school-provided devices or digital platforms will be addressed in accordance with the school's Responsible Use of Digital Technology Policy.

These measures help ensure that expectations concerning personal devices are applied consistently, while digital misuse is addressed according to its nature and seriousness.

6. Educational or medical exceptions

Where a student requires the use of a personal device for a specific educational, accessibility or medical reason, this must be formally agreed with the school in advance. Any agreed use will be limited to the purpose for which the device is required and will be subject to any conditions established by the school.

The school recognises that, in particular circumstances, access to a device may be necessary to support a child's education, accessibility or wellbeing. Such arrangements will be considered individually so that a genuine need can be accommodated without undermining the wider expectations of this policy.

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