



# Hotwells

PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Pupil Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy**

The school accepts that it is not regarded as realistic to have a policy which completely prohibits pupils from taking phones or smartwatches to school. However, the use of mobile phones and smartwatches presents a number of problems, including:

1. Mobile phones and/or smartwatches can be valuable items and might render a pupil vulnerable to theft;
2. Mobile phones and smartwatches (and their cost and level of sophistication) can cause unhealthy competition among peers and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying;
3. Use of phones and smartwatches with cameras could lead to child protection, data protection and e-safety issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.

## **Procedure for use and possession of mobile phones and smartwatches by pupils:**

1. Mobile phones and smartwatches should not be brought to school. The school advises all parents to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones and smartwatches to schools on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen.
2. However, we appreciate that older children, in Years 5 and 6, may walk to and from school and parents may wish the child to have a phone or smart watch. In order to bring a phone or smart watch into school the parent and pupil must complete a consent form. Younger pupils may only bring phones or smartwatches into school in exceptional circumstances and with permission from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The phone and/or smartwatch must be turned off when in school and stored in the class phone box. The school will accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any mobile phones or smartwatches brought on to the school premises at any time.

3. Where a school pupil is found by a member of staff to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone or smartwatch, the device will be taken from the child and stored as above. The child may have the phone or smartwatch returned to them at the end of the day. If this is a persistent problem, the parent/carer will be informed and the child may be asked not to bring the device into school.

This policy also links to our **Online Safeguarding Policy** and the relevant extract regarding mobile phones and internet connected smartwatches can be found below:

***Pupils:***

*Children are not allowed mobile phones with them during the day. They are also not permitted to have smart watches which allow them to communicate with other devices. Any mobile/smart devices will be kept safe within the school office or classroom from the beginning of the day to the end and at no point should pupils' mobile phones/smart devices be switched on during their time on school premises. Mobile devices/smart devices are not permitted on school trips or residential visits.*



**Agreement by parent and pupil of the conditions under which the  
pupil may bring a mobile phone to school.**

**Name of Pupil:**

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**Class:**

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**Parent:**

1. I will ensure my child understands that the phone or smartwatch must not be turned on during the school day at any time whatsoever.
2. I will ensure my child understands that the phone or internet connected smartwatch must be put in the class phone box. I understand that the mobile phone or smartwatch may not be kept in my child's school bag.
3. I accept responsibility for the mobile phone or smartwatch whilst my child has brought it onto school premises. I understand that the school does not accept liability for the device.

**Signed by parent:**

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**Date:**

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**Pupil:**

I understand that **I may not turn my mobile phone on school grounds at any time** and that it is for my journey time only. I will ensure I will put the phone or internet connected watch directly to the class phone box as soon as I arrive in class. I will not turn my phone on until I have left the school gates.

I understand that I will not be able to bring a phone to school again if I turn it on at school or I leave it in my school bag. If I do so, my phone will be confiscated.

**Signed by pupil:**

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**Date:**

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