

Children and mobile phones

Interim statement January 2025 (we are currently developing a Trust Primary School policy)

Safeguarding of children within our school is paramount. As part of this we support children in school through the 'internet safety' aspects of our curriculum. Children are not allowed to use mobile phones or similar personal devices at all during the school day and we believe that in general children do not need to bring a phone to school.

Children from **Year 5 onwards** may be given permission to travel to/from school independently. The school will need written permission from a parent/guardian if you wish your child to travel home unaccompanied.

We understand that some parents may prefer their child to have a device with them if they travel to/from school independently. In these cases parents/carers **may wish to consider**, whether this could be a simple phone (not internet enabled) rather than a smartphone. Before and after school, issues can arise around internet access, messaging and social media which the school, or you as parents/carers, cannot monitor during these times.

The school should be informed if a child will be bringing a mobile phone into school. **Children should only have a phone in school if they are walking home independently.**

In the case of those pupils where written permission has been received, the following code of conduct *must* be adhered to:

- Children are not allowed to use their mobile phones anywhere on school premises (this includes in the playground, even outside of school hours).
- If a mobile phone is brought in, it must be handed in to their teacher on arrival and will be kept safe by the pupil's teacher and returned at the end of the school day. The phone must be off for the duration of the school day.
- Children must not bring into school any other 'smart' devices, (e.g. smart watches), or any other devices that can store images or access the internet.
- If a mobile device is not handed in, it will be confiscated and will **only** be returned directly to a parent/carer.
- The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of personally-owned mobile phones or similar devices.
- Parents must not attempt to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but through the school office.

See below for the form that parents/carers should fill in if they wish their child to bring a mobile form to school.

Personal Device and Pupil Mobile Phone Authorisation Form

I request permission for _____ (print child's name) in class _____
to bring their mobile phone/device into school.

The reason why a phone is needed to be brought to school by my child is:

I have read and agree to the school's statement above with regard to the use of mobile phones
and devices.

I understand that, if authorised, the device is the sole responsibility of the parent/carer and that a
breach to the policy will result in confiscation and possible behaviour sanctions thereafter.

Signed Parent/Carer _____

Date _____

Please return this form to the class teacher/office

Thank you