

## **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 to walk home independently, the following code of conduct must be adhered to:

- Children are not allowed to have or 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 the school office where it will be kept safe and must be collected at the end 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.