

Friday 14th November 2025**Re: Mobile phones and Smart watches**

Dear Parents and Carers

We are aware that potential wish lists may well have started or begun at this time and there may well be all sorts of exciting tech that the children would like to receive, including their own mobile telephones and smart watches.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the current school policies around phones and other technical devices. We would also like to make it clear, that whilst we do not have an “outright ban” on smart phones we support the work and principles of the Smart Phone Free Childhood movement (<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>) although we believe that this is ultimately a decision for parents and families to make. We would remind everyone that most messaging and social media apps have an age restriction of 13 years old.

If children want to bring their phones to school, we do ask that parents/carers complete a “Permission Form,” *before* they bring them to school. This form is available from the school office. As soon as your child enters the grounds i.e the pathway from Huntley Road or the driveway from High Storrs Road, the mobile phone needs to have been turned off and put away ready to be handed in to their class teacher. These are then stored in the office throughout the day and returned at the end of school, again, all phones should be switched off whilst on the school premises. There is no opportunity for any mobile phones to be used or accessed during the school day.

The same rules apply to smart watches as these have the ability to connect to the internet, and, as such can be used in a very similar way to phones. Some also have the ability to take photographs and film events. Any pupil wearing a smart watch (whether certain functionality has been switched off or not) they will be treated in the same way as a mobile phone, i.e. they will need to be handed into class teachers at the beginning of the day and kept in the office before being returned at the end of school.

Please also note that school are not responsible for any electronic devices brought to school.

We regularly talk to all the children about staying safe online and appropriate behaviour online. We always reiterate the need to behave in the same way as you would face to face (kind and respectful) when communicating online via whatever means, be it text messages, social media platforms, voice messages or games consoles. We also remind children that once something is “published” on line, they have lost control of the message and it is always traceable.

The best advice that we are given by the police and other agencies working with children and young people around online safety is to regularly talk to your children about their online use, check devices (and let them know that you are checking it) and, whenever possible, have an open door policy to use of technologies in your house – i.e. anyone could come into the room at any time whilst they are on their devices.

Please do be vigilant when your children are playing games or communicating with each other and do also let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Yours sincerely,
Emma Hardy
Head Teacher

Nicole Ramsey
Deputy head

Guy Willatt
Deputy head