



Euxton CE Primary School



Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy

'In our Christian family we all SHINE in the light of Jesus'

Purpose

This policy aims to establish clear guidelines on the use of smartwatches and mobile phones in school to ensure they support, rather than disrupt, the learning environment. The goal is to prioritise children safety while minimising distractions during school hours.

General Principles

1. **Safety First:** The school acknowledges the importance of children staying connected with parents or carers, especially in cases of emergencies. Smartwatches and mobile phones can be valuable tools for communication.
2. **Focus on Learning:** The primary focus during school hours is on education, and devices should not distract from teaching or learning activities.
3. **Respecting School Environment:** All children, staff, and parents must respect the guidelines set forth to create a focused and respectful school environment.

Mobile Phones

1. **Not Allowed During School Hours:**
 - Children's mobile phones must be turned off and placed in the designated storage area (basket in school office) upon arrival at school. Staff and visitors must keep mobiles phones in a secure place during the school day.
 - Phones may not be used during class time. The only exception is by use of staff in emergencies (e.g. lockdown).
2. **Emergency Use:**
 - Parents are encouraged to contact the school directly for urgent matters. If children need to contact their parents the staff in the school office will make the call on their behalf.

3. **Before and After School:**

- Children must only use mobile phones when they have left school premises. Phones must be switched off on arrival and not used during school hours.

4. **Consequences for Misuse:**

- If a child is caught using their mobile phone without permission, it will be confiscated and returned only at the end of the day or after a parent/carer is contacted. This is for safeguarding reasons.

Smartwatches

1. **Usage Guidelines:**

- Smartwatches that function solely as timepieces are permitted in class.
- Smartwatches with additional functionalities, such as taking photographs, calling, texting, or internet access are not allowed to be used during school hours.

2. **Classroom Restrictions:**

- All electronic watches must be set to silent mode during class to avoid distractions.
- If a child uses a smartwatch during the school day to make or receive calls, send messages, take photos, or access the internet during school hours, it will be treated similarly to a mobile phone violation.
- Teachers will monitor the use of devices to ensure they are used appropriately.

3. **Storage:**

- All smartwatches must be stored in the designated boxes in classrooms. Watches must be clearly named and labelled.

Parental Responsibility

1. **Awareness:**

- Parents must ensure that children understand and adhere to the school's mobile phone and smartwatch policies.
- Any device brought to school should be appropriate for the child's age and capability, and parents should consider the potential impact on the child's focus and social interactions.

2. **Emergency Communication:**

- The school will communicate with parents through official channels.

3. **Device Safety:**

- Parents are responsible for the safety and security of their child's devices. The school will not be liable for any lost or damaged devices.

Special Circumstances

1. Medical Needs:

- Students who need to use a smartwatch or mobile phone for medical reasons (e.g. health monitoring, emergency alerts) may request special permission from the headteacher.
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Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it aligns with evolving technology and the needs of children, parents, and staff.

Conclusion: The goal of this policy is to ensure that devices such as mobile phones and smartwatches are used responsibly in the school environment. By adhering to these guidelines, we can ensure that children's learning is prioritised and that their safety is maintained.

M Ash

Headteacher

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