

Mobile and Smart Technology Policy



Created on:	27th September 2021
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Approved on:	
Signed on behalf of Governing Body:	
Role:	
Next review date: (biannually)	September 2023

Personal devices must not be used in the school without the explicit permission of the Head this will include the use of wearable technology

Mobile Phone Policy

We recognise that mobile phones are an ever increasing part of everyday life and they can play an important role in help pupils feel safe and secure. However, we are aware that such devices can create distractions to pupils as well as providing a way to bully or intimidate others.

Therefore, pupils at Smith's Wood Primary Academy are not permitted to use mobile phones within school, trips or school events.

Children are welcome to use their mobile phones to walk to and from school, but once in school, they must be switched off and given to the class teacher to be safely kept until the end of the day.

Smith's Wood Primary Academy will not take any responsibility for any loss or damages to a pupil's personal mobile device.

The school will investigate and act on any inappropriate use of mobile phones, or inappropriate content on mobile phones, where they are directly found to have occurred on the school site during the hours of the school day. As stated previously, pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones turned on in school, therefore these issues should not occur. For issues relating to social media, or inappropriate texts sent at home, or outside of school, the school expects parents to take responsibility for dealing with these. The school will not intervene and provide sanctions for instances of inappropriate mobile phone use outside of school.

Smart Watch Policy

Although smart watches have many positive features, including monitoring heartbeats and the use of a step counter, they can also be used to receive emails, text messages, make phone calls and take photos. Children are not permitted to take photos for personal use in school via any platform. As you will appreciate, these work in a similar way to mobile phones and don't allow the school to monitor the content which children are looking at in school. The monitoring of acceptable internet use is something that the school takes extremely seriously and there are clear mechanisms and reporting systems in place, within the school, to ensure that our pupils remain safe at Smith's Wood Primary Academy.

The school has a clear no mobile phone policy in school and due to the nature of access, which the smart watches provide, this policy also extends to the use of smart watches at Smith's Wood Primary Academy.

Pupils can easily become distracted in lessons, whilst also allowing them to access content during the school day; content which the school is unable to monitor and which may not be appropriate for primary aged pupils. A further concern is that pupils run the risk of incurring damage to this extremely expensive item, in a busy school, as we are unable to guarantee the safety of the watches during break times and lunchtimes.

Any smart watch which has enabled internet connectivity to a smartphone, is not permitted; such as Apple or Samsung and even some Fitbit watches, as these types of smart watches have the ability to send and receive text messages and phone calls.

If you are unsure whether your child's watch would be suitable for school, then please speak to a member of staff.