

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy Statement

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones into School. This policy statement also applies to all other electronic devices, such as tablets, Smartwatches and iPods.

While we acknowledge that the use of electronic devices forms a routine part of everyday life for many children (but by no means all at this age), the School's policy is that they should not be brought to School for the following reasons:

- Electronic devices can disrupt learning, particularly if they are kept in pockets or desks. The alternative, i.e. keeping them in children's bags in the cloakrooms, may present opportunities for theft.
- Issues surrounding peer pressure and competitiveness may increase as a result of children bringing in mobile phones or electronic devices. There is also a greater risk of cyber bullying and potential for misuse, and increasingly so with devices that have internet access.
- The school filter system will not operate on personal mobile phones with internet access. Therefore, we cannot ensure the safety of all children in our care.
- To ensure the privacy and safety of all children.
- To limit the risk of damage to the emotional well-being of children, including access to potentially unsuitable materials.

The School cannot accept responsibility for electronic devices should be they be lost, damaged or stolen.

Due to the increase in the number of phones being brought to school there is no longer the capacity within the school office to book every device brought to school in and out each day. The School does not believe that having either a mobile phone or other tracking device keeps a child safe.

There may be highly exceptional circumstances whereby a child needs to bring a mobile phone into school but these will be unusual and would need the prior agreement of the Head of School. Please note, needing a phone to walk home safely is not an exceptional reason.

Should a child be found to have a mobile phone or other electronic device in school, the item will be retained by staff and parents will be asked to collect the item at the end of the school day.