MOBILE PHONES STATEMENT FOR CHILDREN

Aim

Our aim is to have a clear policy on the use of smart watches, tablets and mobile phones for children while attending Engayne Primary School.

Mobile Phones

Pupils

- **Pupils are not permitted to bring smartphones to school. Pupils may only bring a feature phone.**
- **The school reserves the right to determine whether a phone is a smartphone or a feature phone.**
- There are no reasons why a pupil needs to have a mobile phone in their possession during the school day.
- Only pupils in Year 6 have the authority to **bring** in phones and this must be supported by a letter from the parent/guardian. This due to starting the transition of walking to and from school in preparation for secondary school. The permission slip is below.
- Smart watches or Fitbits or anything which is not a traditional analogue watch or any similar makes are not to be worn at school.
- In general, students should not bring valuable items into school, as they can be easily lost or stolen.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- Pupils are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto school grounds during the school day they must hand the phone to the class teacher on arrival and then retrieve it at the end of the school day.
- If pupils do bring a mobile phone to school, it must be clearly marked with their name.
- Pupils remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school.
- When pupils enter the school grounds, the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. They are brought in entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- When collecting or dropping off the phone, be courteous at all times.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be applied for pupils who fail to follow the guidelines:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to pupil or parent at the end of the day);
- Communication with parents or guardians regarding mobile phone use at school, or;
- A pupil being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto school grounds.

More serious behaviour, such as accessing inappropriate material on a mobile phone, or using a device to make images or recordings of adults or pupils without the adult's consent or the consent of a pupil's appropriate adult, may lead to more serious sanctions, including exclusion.

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone is used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school; or
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well-being of any person; or is in breach of any law.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include pupils using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Behaviour Management Policy.

The Head teacher and assistant headteachers reserve the right to check the image content of a mobile phone, should there be any cause for concern over appropriate use or content.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, tablets, iPods and similar devices.

Exemptions

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the head teacher and then only in exceptional circumstances.

September 2026

Mrs S Sankey

Headteacher

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Mobile phone permission

I give permission for my child to bring a mobile phone to school.

I have read and agree to the policy outlined above.

Pupil's name_____ class_____

Name of parent or guardian _____

parent or guardian's signature _____

date_____