

# The Croft Primary School

## Mobile Phone & Smart Watches Policy



### 1. Introduction and aims

At The Croft Primary School we recognise that mobile phones/smart watches, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones/smart watches for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones/smart watches in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

### 2. Roles and responsibilities

#### 2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

### 3. Use of mobile phones by staff

#### 3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room).

If school staff are required to be contacted in case of emergency then the main school number 01532 490261 is to be used.

### **3.2 Data protection**

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information.

### **3.3 Safeguarding**

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Please refer to the schools Online Safety Policy.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

### **3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes**

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

## **4. Use of mobile phones by pupils**

Some children in Upper key Stage 2 may bring their phones to school when:

- Travelling to school by themselves
- Need to contact their parents/carers

Children bringing their phones to school must have a consent/agreement form signed by their parents/carers.

Their phones must be handed in at the start of the day to school staff and stored securely in the classroom. They will be handed back at the end of the day.

If the children are found using their phones inappropriately they will not be allowed to bring them to school.

Smart watches will be treated the same as mobiles phones as they now have increased functionality.

## **5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors**

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to make contact with other parents
- Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

## **6. Loss, theft or damage**

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones/smart watches that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Lost phones/watches should be returned to the office manager or Head Teacher. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

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