Westquarter Primary School & Nursery Class

Mobile Phone & Devices Policy

May 2024

Policy Statement

'Taking into account both the potential benefits for learning and teaching from the existing context of increased ownership and usage, whilst considering the risk factors, it is unreasonable and impractical to attempt to impose a ban on mobile devices in schools. A different approach is required which promotes the safe and responsible use of mobile devices while encouraging schools to adopt a robust but measured response to the consequences of their inappropriate use. This will help staff, children and young people, and parents to enjoy the flexibility that mobile devices can provide, whilst helping them to feel safe and protected from harm, and reducing the likelihood of accessing inappropriate content.'

The Scottish Government, 2013

We appreciate that many pupils may have a mobile phone or Smart Watch with them during the day so they can keep in contact with parents/carers on their way to or from school. However, there are risks involved in allowing children access to phones, Smart Watches or hand-held devices during the school day. This policy is in place to encourage responsible use of devices to help keep everyone safe.

Approach

- Parents/carers should complete the 'mobile phones & devices in school' form (appendix 1) available at the School Office.
- Mobile phones/devices should be switched OFF during the school day.
- Mobile phones/devices must not be taken outside during break time or lunchtime.
- Mobile phones/devices should not be taken to the toilets.
- Smart Watches should be set to 'school mode' between 9am and 3pm.
- Parents who need to pass a message to their child during the school day should do so by phoning the School Office.
- If a pupil uses their phone to take photographs or videos of other children or members of staff they will be asked to delete it. Parents/carers will be contacted.

Our approach ensures children's rights are protected with a focus on the following Articles of the UNCRC:







Please note, the school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones, Smart Watches or personal devices.

Appendix 1

Mobile Phones / Devices in School

I wish my child to bring their mobile phone/device to school. I have read the school policy on mobile phones/devices and understand that:

- the mobile phone or device will be kept OFF in a pocket or school bag for the duration of the school day
- Smart watches will be set to 'school mode' between 9am and 3pm
- If I wish to pass a message on to my child I will contact the school office
- the school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to a mobile phone or device brought to school

By signing this letter I agree to the terms of the policy and will ensure that I, and my child, will follow them.

Child's name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Parent/carer signature: _____