



# Hawthorn Primary School

## Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy



**'Where Every  
Child Matters'**

## 1. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and smartwatches by pupils. Whilst we understand that some children may require these devices for communication and safety during travel to and from school, their use during the school day is not permitted.

## 2. General Principles

- Pupils may **bring a mobile phone or smartwatch to school** only if it is needed **for safety when travelling to and from school**.
- These devices must **not be used** on school premises during the school day.
- The school accepts **no responsibility** for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

## 3. Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones must be **switched off before entering the school grounds**.
- Phones must be **handed to the class teacher or designated staff member** on arrival and will be **securely stored** until the end of the day.
- Phones may only be **switched on and used after leaving** school grounds at home time.
- **No calls, texts, photos, videos or app usage** is permitted while on school property.

## 4. Smartwatches

- Smartwatches that **have messaging, calling, or app functionality** are treated as communication devices and subject to the same rules as mobile phones.
- Smartwatches must be **set to 'school mode', 'aeroplane mode' or equivalent**, disabling communication features during the school day.
- Smartwatches may only be used to **tell time** while on school premises.
- Messaging or calling through a smartwatch during the school day is strictly prohibited.

## 5. Parent/Carer Responsibilities

- Parents must provide **written consent** explaining why their child needs to bring a phone or smartwatch to school. **Permission will only be granted to do this if the child is using it for safety when travelling to and from school** or if there is an exception agreed by the school as outlined in section 7. Unless permission has been granted, mobile phones are not to be brought onto school site under any circumstances.
- Whilst the school cannot enforce this point, we strongly recommend that parents ensure devices have **appropriate security, privacy settings, and parental controls**.
- It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure the device is insured and school will accept no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices

## 6. Sanctions

If a pupil does not follow the rules:

- The device will be **confiscated and returned only to a parent/carer**.
- Repeated misuse may lead to a **ban on bringing the device to school**.

## 7. Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy e.g. for use in managing a health condition or additional needs must be discussed and agreed with the Headteacher in advance.