



Tenterden Infant School

'Together, we learn, grow and flourish'



Tenterden Church of England Junior School

'With God as our companion, we learn, grow and flourish'



Tenterden Primary Federation Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy

Updated: July 2024

Approved: July 2024

Review due: July 2025

Introduction and Aims

At Tenterden Primary Federation, the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines. This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones and smart watches are effective communication tools.

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones and smart watches on site. This includes staff, volunteers, governors, children, young people, parents, carers, visitors and contractors. This list is not exhaustive. This policy should also be read in relation to the following documentation:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Online Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

Our aim is therefore that all practitioners:

- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse and know how to minimise risk.
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to possible allegations.
- Understand the need for professional boundaries and clear guidance regarding acceptable use.
- Are responsible for self-moderation of their own behaviours.
Are aware of the importance of reporting concerns promptly.

It is fully recognised that imposing rigid regulations on the actions of others can be counterproductive. An agreement of trust is therefore promoted regarding the carrying and use of mobile phones within the setting, which is agreed to by all users.

Personal Mobiles and Smart Watches

Staff/Volunteers/ Peripatetic teachers/Visitors are not permitted to make/receive calls/texts during contact time with children. Emergency contact should be made via the school office.

- Staff should have their phones on silent or switched off and out of sight (e.g. in a drawer or cupboard) during class time. Smart watches can be worn during school day but the camera, messaging and call services must be disabled.
- Mobile phones should not be used in a space where children are present (e.g. classroom, playground).
- Use of phones (including receiving/sending texts and emails on smart

watches and mobile phones) should be limited to non-contact time when no children are present e.g. in office areas, staff room, empty classrooms.

- It is also advised that staff security protect access to functions of their phone/smart watch.
- Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then staff should make the Head teacher aware of this and arrangements will be made with the school office so that the emergency call can be received.
- Staff are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile phones/smart watches, for example: to take recordings of children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment such as cameras and Ipads.
- Staff should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Head teacher.

Mobile Phones for work related purposes

We recognise that mobile phones provide a useful means of communication during offsite activities. However, staff should ensure that:

- Mobile use on these occasions is appropriate and professional.
- Mobile phones should not be used to make contact with parents during school trips unless an emergency or via the school / class dojo messaging service – all other relevant communications should be made via the school office.
- Where parents are accompanying trips they are informed not to make contact with other parents (via calls, text, email or social networking) during the trip or use their phone/smart watch to take photographs of children.

Personal Mobiles and Smart Watches

We recognise that mobile phones/smart watches are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping pupils to feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can provide a means of bullying or intimidating others. Therefore:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones at school unless they are in Year 5 or 6 and parents have requested permission with the form (Appendix A) available in conjunction with the Children's Acceptable Use of Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy. These phones will be collected by the class teacher, locked away and given out at the end of the day (the phone is left at the owner's own risk). The phones must be turned off when handed in.
- Smart watches should not be worn to school unless parents have also submitted a request for permission with the above-mentioned form. The watches must also be without internet connectivity, unable to receive or make calls or messages and without a camera function. They must be worn as normal watches and only used for telling the time while in school.

Where a pupil is found to be in unauthorised possession of a mobile phone or smart watch, the phone/watch will be confiscated by the Headteacher, locked away in the school safe and returned only to the parent/carer.

Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the head teacher does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site.'

Volunteers, Visitors, Governors, Peripatetic Teachers and Contractors

All Volunteers, Visitors, Governors and Contractors are expected to follow our mobile phone and smart watch policy as it relates to staff whilst on the premises. On arrival, such visitors will be informed of our expectations around the use of mobile phones/smart watches. It is recognised that a smart watch may be visible on an adult's wrist, but they must be in silent mode and not used during the working day other than to read the time.

While we would prefer parents not to use their mobile phones while on the school site, we recognise that this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents see their phones as essential means of communication at all times. We therefore will ask that parents' usage of mobile phones, whilst on the school site is courteous and appropriate to the school environment and only used in areas such as the carpark.

At times, we also allow parents to photograph or video school events such as shows or sports day using their mobile phones/tablets if there are no parental objections or safeguarding issues, but insist that parents do not publish images (e.g. on social networking sites) that include any children other than their own.

This mobile phone and smart watch policy will be shared with staff and volunteers as part of their induction. It will also be available to parents via the school office and website.

Appendix 1



Mobile/Smart Phone, Smart Watch, Camera & Electronic Device Acceptable Use Agreement

We have reviewed our policy on the use of Mobile/Smart Phone, Smart Watch, Camera & Electronic Devices.

In accordance with this policy, you must sign the form below to give permission for your;

- Year 5 or 6 child to bring a mobile phone to school.
- Child to wear a smart watch to school

This form must be completed after you have read and shared the corresponding policy with your child. The policy can be found on the school website at;

<https://www.tenterdenprimaryfederation.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=29>

For the purpose of this Agreement, please read 'Phone' to mean any Mobile/Smart Phone, Camera & Electronic Device.

You agree to the following:

- Your child's phone will be turned off and kept by the class teacher during the school day.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone or any electrical item bought to school.
- Your child's phone must remain switched off during the school day.
- Any watches worn to school must be without internet connectivity while in school, unable to receive or make calls or messages and without a camera function. They must be worn as normal watches with no other function beyond telling the time while in school.
- The school reserves the right to withdraw the privilege of bringing a device to school if we find that it has been used inappropriately.
- Parents must talk to their children about the appropriate use of such devices in accordance with the Mobile/Smart Phone, Smart Watch, Camera & Electronic Device Policy.

Parental Consent

I give permission for my child (name) _____ in class _____ to bring their phone/ wear their watch to school.

I have read the policy and understand our responsibilities. I agree to the above.

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return to the school office