

PUPIL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Policy Statement

The increased use of mobile phones and smart watches requires that staff, pupils and parents should take steps to ensure that mobile phones and smart watches are used responsibly.

From October 2024 Eaton House Schools actively championed the idea of a 'smartphone free childhood', and from January 2025 Eaton House Schools became a smartphone free school.

This policy is designed to set out the Schools' policy on the use of mobile phones and smart watches by pupils.

The use of mobile phones, smart watches and similar devices can present a number of problems, including:

- disruption to classes and the learning environment
- discipline issues because of theft, loss or damage
- child protection issues, because of the unauthorised capture or distribution of images.
- negative impact on pupil wellbeing

Eligibility

Eaton House Schools will allow pupils to bring mobile phones and smart watches to school if the following criteria are met:

- Mobile phones must be 'brick' phones, with no capacity to connect to the internet. Smartphones are banned for all year groups
- Be in Year 5 and above and travelling to and / or from school on their own and hold a 'yellow badge'
- Hand their phone/smart watch in to the SMT office upon arrival at school

Measurement and Review

Senior Management establishes and reviews the Pupil Mobile phone policy.

Procedures

- The parent of the pupil concerned must contact the school to seek permission for their child to bring a mobile phone/smart watch.
- Parents must complete the online permission form found on the parent portal
- The pupil will read with their parent the Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy and sign and send it to the school PA prep.pa@eatonhouseschools.com
- Pupils travelling on the school buses in the mornings and after school are not permitted to use their phones or smart watches (unless they need to contact parents with regarding travelling arrangements)
- Each day on arrival the pupil will hand in their phone/smart watch to the SMT office where it will be kept until the end of the day when the mobile device will be collected by the pupil.
- Under no circumstances will the pupil's mobile phone/smart watch be allowed on the school premises if it is not kept in the SMT office. If at any time a pupil is found with a mobile phone/smart watch in their possession during the school day it will be confiscated and returned to their parents. If this is repeated the pupil will not be allowed a mobile phone/smart watch on the school premises again.

At Home and Away from School

- Whilst away from school the pupils use of their mobile phone/smart watch is their own and their parents' responsibility.
- It is advised that sensible precautions are adopted by the pupil when using their phone/smart watch in public places.
- Eaton House Schools will not tolerate pupils who photograph or film other individuals without their consent, download and display inappropriate material. The school will not tolerate any rude, aggressive, insulting or anti-social use of the pupil's mobile phone/smart watch that has any connection to the school body (pupils, parents, staff and the name of Eaton House the Manor School) via text, digital images, e-mail or any other medium.

Such activities will be reported to parents and dealt with under the school discipline policy. Where they constitute a criminal offence, the police may be involved.

School Trips

Mobile phones and smart watches are not permitted on day or residential school trips.

Security and Loss

Eaton House Schools does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur whilst the mobile phone or smart watch is on school premises. The phone/smart watch is the sole responsibility of the pupil at all times.