

# Kiwi Primary School



## Use of Mobile Phones /Smart watches by children policy

**Reviewed:** September 2023

**Review:** October 2025

**Please note that for the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' also covers any electronic device, such as smart watches, with the capacity to be used as a form of communication, either through the device itself or any applications stored on the device.**

Children who walk to and from school without an accompanying adult may carry a mobile phone for safety. In these cases, children may bring a mobile phone but must hand it in to their teacher at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the day.

Parents and carers need to be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to pupils having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.

We would also like to alert parents and carers to the risks that using a mobile phone has while walking to and from school. Children who are concentrating on using their phone can have reduced general safety awareness which may result in road accidents and/or injury if a child is not paying attention to their surroundings.

Mobile phones kept in school will be kept safely in a locked cupboard. Whilst the school will take every reasonable care, it accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure mobile phones are properly insured. It is recommended that pupil's phones are security marked and password protected.

Any mobile phones discovered to have been brought into the school and not handed in will be confiscated immediately. Parents or carers will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the school office.

Children are not allowed to carry mobile phones on any school trips.

If a member of the staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone brought into school by a pupil has unsuitable material stored on it, the pupil will be required to hand over the phone immediately to a member of staff and parents or carers will be asked to collect it from a member of the senior leadership team. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone may be handed to the relevant authorities.

Children wearing smart watches will only be able to do so if they are set to 'school' mode where they cannot access the video/photo or phone apps during the school day. Any child caught using these will have the watch confiscated and parents will need to collect from the school office.

If you wish your child to bring their mobile phone/wear a smart watch please complete and return the enclosed slip.

## Mobile Phone Permission Slip

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

My child needs to bring a mobile phone to school as he/she walks to/from school without an adult.

I accept that the school cannot be held responsible for the security of my child's mobile phone and understand that if the phone is used inappropriately at the school, the phone will be confiscated immediately and I will be responsible for collecting it from school.

If my child is wearing a smart watch to school I take full responsibility to ensure it is not used to video/make calls/take photos during school time.

Signature of Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_