

**CORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MOBILE PHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY reviewed 09/24**

**Rationale**

Advancing mobile phone and social media technology presents a number of issues for our school:

1. The high monetary value of many phones.
2. Use of camera phones leading to potential child protection/data protection issues (i.e. uploading video footage from mobile phones to sites like YouTube or Facebook).
3. The possibility of secretly using the phone whilst on silent mode.
4. The potential use of a phone or social media as a bullying ‘tool’.
5. Disruption to lessons.

Whilst some schools have declared an outright ban, it may not be realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school since it should be recognised that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate for pupils to have access to one, e.g. to contact parents on the journey home from school. However, it should be clearly communicated that if a pupil needs to contact a parent (or vice versa) during school hours, this must be done via the school office.

Since we aim to develop informed attitudes in the use of Information, Communication & Technology, the following policy may allow pupils to take phones to school under the conditions outlined with the stipulation that the school accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, damage, loss or health effects relating to mobile phones.

Due to continually developing technology, we now add smart watches, e.g. Apple watches and other similar brands, to this policy. All smart watches that can receive or make calls, **and/or** can receive or make text messages of any kind, **and/or** can take, send or receive photos or videos, will be considered the same as mobile phones and will therefore be handed in with mobile phones.

**Policy**

* Phones/smart watches as detailed above must not be used for **any** purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, internet usage, photography, videoing, etc.) between the hours of 9am and 3pm.
* Phones/smart watches as detailed above must be switched off completely and not just set on silent mode.
* Phones/smart watches as detailed above should be handed to the class teacher at 9am and collected at 3pm.
* If a pupil breaks these rules, the phone/smart watch as detailed above will be confiscated and must be collected from the office by a parent/guardian.
* Social Media sites such as Facebook will not be used as part of the curriculum as they carry an age restriction (13 years+) deeming them unsuitable for Primary-aged children.
* Whilst parents may take photographs and videos of school performances etc. they are asked to refrain from posting these images or videos online if they include other peoples’ children.
* Staff members follow the Social Media Guidance notes provided by Aberdeen City Council, and as such, retain a clear separation between their professional and personal lives.