



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
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Chair of Governors: Paul Cummings

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Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Usage – Years 5 and 6

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of our children in Upper Juniors bringing mobile phones and smart watches (where they are able to send and receive texts) into school.

We understand that these devices provide the children with a way of communicating with their family before and after school when necessary. In Year Six, for example, we have a number of children who walk to school and return home unaccompanied. For these children it is essential that the school has a document giving permission for your child to do this. I have attached this document (also on our website) as a reminder.

Some of our Year Six, because they walk home unaccompanied, do bring a mobile phone into school. In order to do this, parents are asked to sign and return the attached acceptable use agreement which outlines our rules for having a mobile phone/smart watch on our site. This is carefully monitored. Should there be a breach of this agreement, then we will review whether your child is able to continue to bring a device into school. During the breach the device will be kept with the Headteacher until a parent/carer is able to come into school to collect it.

Mobile phones/smart watches **MUST** be handed in to the class teacher on arrival at school to be stored securely. Under no circumstances should these devices be taken out and used on our school site or when entering/leaving the school site.

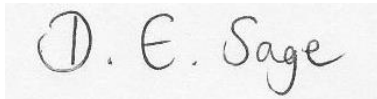
We know that some of our Year Five children are now able to walk home unaccompanied (please send the form in if this is the case). If you feel it is essential your child has a mobile phone/smart watch with them, please also fill in the agreement and send it to the school office for the Headteacher's attention. She will then make a decision on a case by case basis.

Should a child lose or damage their device, whilst we are sympathetic, we are not liable for any loss or expense to replace or repair this. We know that mobile phones/smart watches can be a valuable and important resource for our children; we frequently discuss safe use of these devices, both in general and as part of our online safety lessons and would recommend that parents/carers attend the scheduled PAPAYA talk on 3rd October to look into this in more detail – we will be in touch with details of this shortly. This agreement is an extension of this key aspect of online safety, as we want the children to develop sensible habits surrounding their usage and to be aware that there are times where using a device is not appropriate.

It is the recommendation of Saltford Primary School that the purchase of a smartphone is delayed until at least Secondary School. If you wish to purchase a mobile device, there are multiple phones available which still offer the benefits of gps tracking, messaging and phone calls without the connection to the internet and social media.

Unfortunately, we regularly witness that the use of mobile/smartphones can cause a lot of upset – especially when the children who have them don't have the maturity to make good decisions and use them sensibly. Often disagreements at school which would by the next day have settled down – become exacerbated by texting (often via Whatsapp which is age guidance 13) out of school and then school is required to intervene to sort out the repercussions of this.

Therefore, I would urge you to take all this into consideration before purchasing a device and/or allowing it to be taken to school.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. E. Sage".

Mrs Dawn Sage

Headteacher