



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
Claverton Road, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3DW
T: 01225 872185 E: contactus@saltfordschool.org.uk
www.saltfordschool.org.uk @SaltfordPrimary

Headteacher: Dawn Sage
Chair of Governors: Richard Rowland

Dear Parents/Carers,

June 2022

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 parents are 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. 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.

We also know that using mobile phones/smart watches 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 out of school and then school is required to intervene to sort out the repercussions of this.

Therefore, I would urge you to take this into consideration before sending your child into school with a device.

Yours faithfully

Dawn Sage



Saltford Primary School Mobile Phone or Smart Watch Acceptable Use Agreement

I know that having a mobile phone/smart watch is both a privilege and a responsibility.

I am allowed to bring my device to school in order to help me communicate with my family after school when I need to.

I agree to follow these rules when I bring my device into school:

- I will turn my phone off when I arrive at the school gate and ensure it remains off for the school day.
- During the school day I will make sure my phone/smart watch is stored in a box or other safe place provided by my teacher.
- I will not use my device whilst at school for any reason, unless asked to by an adult.
- I will wait until I am outside of the school gates to turn on my device and use it at the end of the day.
- I will not share my phone number with any other children without the permission of my parents.
- I will never give away the pin, password or any other access information that would allow others to use my device.
- I will not use my device to make videos or take photos of myself or other children whilst in, or near to the school.

I agree to follow these rules when bringing my device into school

Signed :

Name : (please print)

Tutor Group : Date :

Signature of Parent/Carer :

The school reserves the right to refuse permission for a child to walk home alone depending on the distance and concerns the school may have at that time. We would advise no KS2 child walks home alone even if authorised by their parent but walks in a friendship group.

All children must be collected from after school clubs by an adult unless written permission is given for the child to walk home – again this comes to the Headteacher as above.

No adult other than those named will be allowed to leave the school with a child. In the event that someone else should arrive without prior knowledge, the school will telephone the parent/carer immediately and await their advice.

If a child is to be collected before the end of the school day, the school is to be notified on the same morning. On arrival to school to collect the child the parent/carer will report to the office staff. The child will then be brought, by staff, to the reception to be taken home by the parent/carer.

If the parent/carer or alternative nominated adult is going to be late to collect their child, staff must be informed of this on arrival. If no one arrives to collect a child and the parent cannot be contacted within half an hour of the end of the school day and we have not been advised of any change of arrangements or delays, the school will contact social services to inform them we have an uncollected child on the premises.

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Saltford C of E Primary School

Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school asap

Name of child:

Year:

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on regular basis.

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in our Arrivals and Departures Policy.

Signed.....

Date: (d/m/y)

Name print.....