

1st December 2017

Mobile Devices and Smart Watches

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware from our Parent Handbook, student mobile devices are not currently allowed in school. If it is essential for your child to bring their device into school, our current policy states that they should hand it in to Pupil Services, or to their Pupil Coach, at the beginning of the day and collect it at the end of the day. This policy is reviewed every year, with consideration to Teaching and Learning and with reference to current Safeguarding concerns.

We have not had cause to add specific guidance regarding 'smart watches' as, until recently, they have not been that common. Unfortunately, we are now getting more students coming to school wearing these devices. On their own this does not necessarily cause a problem, as the device simply operates as a watch, however when linked to a phone the functionality greatly increases.

We've now had a number of issues linked to smart-watches; in each case the watch has been linked to a mobile phone which the student had concealed. As this issue is now becoming more prevalent we feel it appropriate to issue some advice.

At present we have sufficient technology within school to support our Teaching and Learning and our Curriculum. Smart devices can cause distractions; they also risk bullying due to their high value / 'fashion' status, plus they simplify access to continuous social media / communication (which raises safeguarding concerns).

Whilst we are not currently banning smart watches, if they are found to be connected to a mobile phone, both of the devices will be confiscated in line with school policy. The devices will then have to be collected by a parent / carer at the end of the school day. Whilst we will endeavour to keep them safe, the school cannot take responsibility for these devices as they are not covered by our insurance and should therefore not be on the school site.

Please also be aware that for exams **all** smart devices **must** be handed in beforehand; if they are found on the student it is likely the exam will be discounted and that other exams pertaining to the same exam board are also at risk.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Buss
Senior Leadership Team