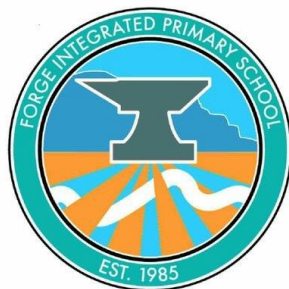


Mobile Electronic Communication Devices in School



Drafted September 2019

Approval by Board of Governors: January 2020

Review: 2024

This policy applies to all mobile electronic devices including Mobile Phones, tablet devices, laptop devices, cameras and other internet capable devices:

1. Pupils are not permitted to have mobile electronic devices with internet capability or image/audio capture capability in school without permission from their teacher and approval from school management.
2. This policy is in place for the protection of children and staff and to reduce the potential for damage or loss of personal property. As a general rule it is, at present, unnecessary and unhelpful for children to have personal electronic devices in our school.
3. We recognise that in some circumstances, some parents may want their children to have a mobile phone in order to be able to communicate with them after school. In such a scenario the following rules should be observed:
4. Parents should inform the school that their children will have a phone and that they consent to their child carrying a phone. This is done by ticking the relevant box on the school's annual generic consent distributed at the beginning of the school year.

In doing so, parents:

- 4.1 Accept that pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones switched on during school hours for child protection reasons.
- 4.2 Accept that in the case of a phone being used in school it will be confiscated and parents contacted to collect the phone from the school office.
- 4.3 Accept that pupils who do have phones in school should keep them switched off and secure in a bag or coat pocket. Lost or damaged phones are not the responsibility of the school.
5. Pupils who do not have parental permission to have a mobile phone in school will have the same action applied as stated in point 2 above.

6. The same approach applies to all other electronic communication devices including all devices that have the capacity to capture sound and images. If a parent wishes a child to have possession of such a device which is different to what is generally understood to be a phone/smart phone, this should be made clear to the school.
7. The school may refuse to permit the possession of certain types of device in school, for example, devices with miniaturized image or audio capture capability such as smart watches or glasses which might present a scenario that makes it impossible for school staff to know when or if the devices are in use. The use of such devices present a risk to pupils and staff which the school rightly wishes to negate.
8. Pupils who do use electronic devices inappropriately in school or use data captured in school or related to the school in such a way as to cause harm or distress to others will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary measures. This may apply whether children have permission to have the devices or not.