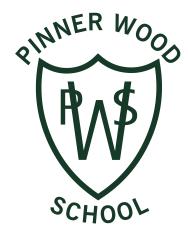
# **PINNER WOOD SCHOOL**



# **Pupil's Personal Device Policy**

Approval Authority:	
Effective From:	January 2025
Date Ratified by GB:	
Next Review Date:	January 2026
Signed by Chair of GB:	

<u>Context</u>

At Pinner Wood we are concerned about the safeguarding issues related to the use of personally owned mobile devices within school. This includes but is not limited to:

- Valuable items which can be lost, stolen or damaged
- Inappropriate use for cyberbullying or exploitation
- Internet access on phones and personal devices can allow pupils to bypass school internet filtering platforms
- Possible disruption to classroom activities
- Mobile phone cameras could lead to child protection, bullying, data protection issues with regards to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images of pupils or staff
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other pupils
- Pupils posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others
- The deliberate filming of events or people in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience such as on social media websites
- Children becoming targets for phone theft/robbery
- Excessive use of mobile phones, including social media and gaming apps, can lead to screen addiction, which can negatively impact mental health by causing anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances.
- Excessive phone use may lead to reduced face-to-face social interactions, which are important for the development of social skills and emotional intelligence.
- Affects the development of the brain

#### <u>Policy</u>

- 1. No pupil is allowed a smartphone or smartwatch on the school premises.
- 2. If it is necessary for a child to bring a mobile phone into school the parent must complete a request form (see APPENDIX B) and return it to the class teacher
- 3. Pupils' Personally-owned devices must not be used in any way while on school premises
- 4. Mobile phone devices bought in to school are the responsibility of the device owner. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of them
- 5. Phones (that do not connect to the Internet) must be switched off before entering school premises and placed in the locked box in the child's classroom with the class teacher
- 6. Any device found to be switched on during the school day will be confiscated, held by the Headteacher and only returned to parents or carers thereafter
- 7. Any child bringing a device into school without a completed authorisation form will have it confiscated and it will only be released to the parents or carer thereafter
- 8. Parents must not attempt to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but must contact the school office

#### APPENDIX A

#### Useful websites:

- 1. Internet Matters <a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/">https://www.internetmatters.org/</a>
- 2. UK Safer Internet Centre https://saferinternet.org.uk/
- 3. NSPCC <u>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/</u>
- 4. Smartphone Free Childhoods <u>https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/</u>

#### Further reading:

- UK Council for Internet Safety: Child Safety Online: A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practicalguide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-andcarers-whose-children-are-using-social-media
  </u>
- 2. Effects of Excessive Screen Time on Child Development: An Updated Review and Strategies for Management https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10353947/

#### <u>Further information and useful websites are available on our school website;</u> <u>www.st-bernadettes.co.uk</u>

### **Pinner Wood School**

#### Personal Device and Pupil Mobile Phone Authorisation Form

Please can I request permission for	(child's name) in class
to bring his/her mobile phone into school.	

The reason why a phone is needed at school by my child is...

I have read and agree to the school's policy on mobile phones and devices.

I understand that, if authorised the device is the sole responsibility of the parent/carer and that a breach to the policy will result in confiscation and possible behaviour sanctions thereafter.

## I understand that the device <u>should not be a smartphone</u> and instead a simple phone that makes and receives calls.

Signed Parent/Carer \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_