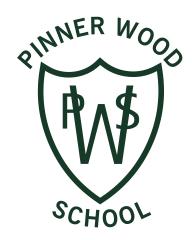
## PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



# **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:

#### Context

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

#### Policy

- 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
- 9. Children are not permitted to bring AirTags or any type of tracking device to school.
- **10.** If children travel to school independently and need to bring a tracking device, they must complete a request form and submit it to the school.
- **11.** All tracking devices must be switched off and stored in a secure, locked box during school hours.
- **12.** The school is not responsible for lost or damaged tracking devices on its premises.

#### **APPENDIX A**

#### Useful websites:

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

#### **Further reading:**

- UK Council for Internet Safety: Child Safety Online: A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media</a>
- 2. Effects of Excessive Screen Time on Child Development: An Updated Review and Strategies for

Management <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10353947/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10353947/</a>

#### **APPENDIX B**

## **Pinner Wood School**

### Personal Device and Pupil Mobile Phone Authorisation Form

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