

# 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 brought 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:

1. UK Council for Internet Safety: Child Safety Online: A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media <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>
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/>

APPENDIX B

# 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/ Air Tag/ Tracking Device into school.

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

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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 should not be a smartphone and instead a simple phone that makes and receives calls.**

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