



24th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

SMART WATCHES – NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

In our drive to ensure e-Safety within our school, we are updating our advice to you regarding new technologies.

For safeguarding reasons, pupils are not permitted to wear Smart Watches or other similar style watches. Many models allow connectivity via mobile devices or Wi-Fi, enabling owners to search the internet and display results on screen. Some watches allow users to make videos, sound and image recording, and feature a camera and microphone. Whilst these watches could be useful in school, the risk of misuse by pupils is significant. This could include filming other pupils and staff without their knowledge, use of the internet during tests and participation in social media, e-mail and messaging during lesson/break time.

Some of these items are particularly costly and could easily be damaged or go missing. Additionally, in the case of the more valuable devices, there is a danger that these could make your child a target of unwanted attention outside of school.

We are also very aware that these types of watches could become quite a distraction within lessons. For these reasons, **smart watches will not be allowed in school.** If a pupil wears one of these, they will be asked to remove it and take it to the office for safe keeping. The parent will then need to go along to the office to collect this at the end of the day. Children may wear a simple analogue or digital watch to enable them to tell the time.

We are also aware that one or two children have occasionally been wearing **the more basic 'Fit Bit' watches/fitness step trackers.** No reports of distraction or misuse have been reported by staff, and Governors are satisfied that these items do not pose a safeguarding risk in school as they simply track steps, distance and calories burned and encourage pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle – something the school positively supports. However, the school takes no responsibility for the loss of such devices other than the usual measures that would be taken with any possession.

Should such devices prove to cause distraction in the future, then pupils will be asked not to bring the device into school.

We appreciate your ongoing support with this.

Yours faithfully

S Casey
Deputy Headteacher

