

Barkisland CE VA Primary School

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, AirTag and Tracking Devices Policy



The purpose of this policy is to set out the school's position on the use of Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, AirTags and other electronic tracking devices by pupils whilst in school. While these devices are common in everyday life, they are not appropriate for use in a primary school setting.

While we understand that parents and carers may wish to use technology to reassure themselves of their child's whereabouts, such devices are not necessary for primary aged pupils. This policy aims to protect pupils from unnecessary worry, safeguard staff from confusion or misunderstanding. This will enable the school to maintain a calm and trusting environment ensuring that safeguarding, learning, and wellbeing remain the school's highest priorities.

This policy applies to:

- All pupils enrolled at the school
- All staff members and volunteers
- All school activities, both on the premises and off-site, including educational visits and residential trips

Statement

- Pupils are **not permitted to wear, carry, or bring Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, AirTags or any other electronic tracking devices** into school.
- Tracking devices can cause unnecessary upset or confusion if activated during the school day.
- Smart watches, due to their features such as online accessibility, recording and capturing facilities can create potential safeguarding and distraction issues.
- The school has robust safeguarding and supervision procedures in place. Parents and carers are asked to place their trust in staff to keep children safe while in our care.
- Any device brought into school will be removed from the pupil's possession, stored securely by staff, and returned to parents/carers at the end of the day.

Rationale

- **Safeguarding:** These devices can inadvertently compromise safeguarding arrangements by:
 - Giving inaccurate or misleading location information,
 - Devices with internet access, cameras, and messaging functions can pose risks to children's safety and wellbeing, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact.
- **Disruption to Learning:**
 - Phones and smartwatches can distract pupils from their lessons and reduce focus on learning and play.
- **Wellbeing:**
 - Alerts or notifications received during the school day may cause unnecessary worry or distress to pupils, parents, or staff.
- **Privacy:**
 - The use of tracking devices, cameras or recording functions could compromise the privacy of both pupils and staff.

- **Trust:**
 - The school is responsible for pupils' safety during school hours and activities. **Confidence in these procedures is essential.**

Responsibilities

- **Parents/Carers:** Ensure that children do not bring devices into school. Support the school's safeguarding approach by trusting staff to supervise and care for pupils.
- **Staff:** Apply this policy consistently and sensitively. Where devices are found, follow the procedures outlined above.
- **Pupils:** Follow school rules and avoid bringing restricted items into school.

Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, parents/carers who believe there is a significant safeguarding reason for their child to carry a mobile phone or tracking device must discuss this with the Headteacher in advance. Each request will be considered individually, and the school's decision will be final.

If there is an exceptional circumstance where a child needs to bring a mobile phone into school, this should be switched off on entering the school premises and handed directly to the teacher. This will be placed in a safe place by the class teacher, and the child will need to ensure they have their phone when leaving school at the end of the school day. School is not able to accept responsibility for the phone whilst in school. Phones should only be switched back on when children have left the school premises.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if technological advances or safeguarding considerations require.

September 2025