



# Paulton Junior School

## Mobile Phone and Digital Device Policy

### Context

At Paulton Junior School, we are concerned about the safeguarding issues related to the use of mobile phones and other digital devices (including smartwatches) within school. These issues include, but are not exclusive to:

- Valuable items which can be lost, stolen or damaged
- Inappropriate use for cyberbullying
- Internet access on phones and personal devices can allow pupils to bypass school internet filtering platforms.
- Possible disruption to classroom activities
- Device cameras could lead to child protection, bullying and 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.

### Policy

At Paulton Junior School:

- **Pupils are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones or other digital devices (including, but not limited to smartwatches) into school.** This is to safeguard children and staff from the risks and harms posed by these devices when used in a school environment. Any important messages and phone calls to or from parents can be made at the school office (01761 418137).
  - **Only in an exceptional circumstance, authorisation to bring a mobile phone into school can be sought from the headteacher.** An authorisation request form can be collected from the school office.
  - **Any attempt to bring a mobile device in without permission will lead to confiscation of the device and sanctions applied** in line with the behaviour policy.
- **Whilst on school site, parents are asked to leave their phones in their pockets/bag and turned off**, although we recognise this would be impossible to regulate and that many parents use their phones as an essential means of communication at all times. We therefore ask that parents/carers **use of mobile phones is courteous and appropriate** to the school environment whilst they are on site if they do have to use them.

**Parents may be invited to use digital devices to photograph or video their child at school events.**

We ask that you try to only photograph/video your own children and that any photographs/videos are not shared on social media sites.

**The above stipulations are a child protection requirement of the school and your compliance is requested for the safety and well-being of everyone in the school community.**