



WINDWHISTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear families,

Mobile phones and smart watches in school

Welcome back for the first day of school. Children have settled in to their new classes very well today.

You may be aware that a new law came into effect during the summer, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, which includes expectations around the use and storage of children's mobile phones during the school day. The Department for Education's guidance around the change in legislation explains that the changes are to minimise distractions in lessons, and to reduce the risk to children's safety.

As a consequence of the introduction of new legislation, we have reviewed our own school policies.

Children in classes below Year 5 must be picked up by a responsible adult, or by a sibling aged fourteen years or above. We recognise that where children in Years 5 and 6 walk home on their own, you may wish them to have a mobile phone with them at that time. Earlier in the summer we purchased lockable phone boxes for the Year 5 and 6 classrooms which are available for children who walk to or from school independently.

Children who travel to and from school with parents or carers, and all children not in Years 5 and 6, do not need to bring a mobile phone into school. There is no facility available for storing phones in this case. As was the case previously, mobile phones may not be in school unless they are stored as detailed above during the school day, and the school's behaviour policy details the consequence of non-compliance.

The Children's Welfare and Schools Act also specifically bans the use of devices that can be used to send and receive messages, or to record video and audio at any point during the school day, including break and lunch times. It is therefore now against the law for children to wear **smart watches or other devices** in school with these functions.

Thank you for your support. Where appropriate, we would ask parents and carers to discuss the change in the law with your children and the benefits to them of minimising the distractions in school.

Mr. P Davis

Deputy Headteacher
Windwhistle Primary School

