



St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy – **DRAFT**

(Part of St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust)

Policy Version: 1.0

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Approved by: Mrs Minford (Headteacher)

1. Introduction and Aims

At **St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy**, the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount and rooted in our Catholic ethos of respect, dignity, and safeguarding.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Enable appropriate use of modern communication technologies.
- Promote safe and responsible practice through clear guidelines.
- Balance protection against misuse with recognition of mobile phones and smart watches as communication tools.

This policy applies to all individuals who have access to personal mobile phones and smart watches on site, including staff, volunteers, governors, pupils, parents, carers, visitors, and contractors.

This policy should be read alongside:

- **Safeguarding Policy**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy**

2. Principles

All staff and adults working in school must:

- Understand what constitutes misuse and how to minimise risk.
- Avoid situations that could be misinterpreted and lead to allegations.
- Maintain professional boundaries and follow guidance on acceptable use.
- Self-moderate behaviour in line with safeguarding expectations.
- Report concerns promptly to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

3. Personal Mobiles and Smart Watches – Staff, Volunteers, Visitors

- No calls/texts during contact time with children; emergency contact via the school office.
- Phones must be silent or switched off and kept out of sight during lessons.
- Smart watches may be worn but with camera, messaging, and call functions disabled.
- No use of phones in areas where children are present.
- Use limited to non-contact time in staff-only areas.
- Devices should be security-protected.
- Exceptional circumstances must be agreed with the Headteacher.
- No recording or photographing children on personal devices.
- Report any concerns immediately to the Headteacher.

4. Pupils – Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

- Phones only permitted for Year 5 and 6 pupils with parental permission (Appendix A).
- Approved phones must be switched off, handed in, and stored securely until home time.
- Smart watches only permitted with parental permission and must have no internet, messaging, calling, or camera functions.
- Unauthorised devices will be confiscated and returned to parents.
- Misuse for bullying or intimidation will be dealt with seriously, including offsite behaviour regulation.

5. Volunteers, Visitors, Governors, Contractors

- Expected to follow staff guidelines.
- Smart watches may be worn but must remain in silent mode and only used to check the time.

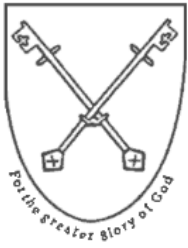
6. Parents and Carers

- Mobile phone use on site should be courteous and limited to appropriate areas
 - Parents may photograph/video school events if safeguarding allows, but images must not be shared online if they include other children.
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7. Policy Availability

This policy will be:

- Shared with staff and volunteers during induction.
 - Available to parents via the school office and website.
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St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch

Acceptable Use Agreement

By signing this form, you agree to the following:

- **Mobile Phones**
 - Your child's phone will be switched off and handed to the class teacher at the start of the school day.
 - The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to any phone or electronic device brought to school.
 - Phones must remain switched off during the school day and will only be returned at home time.
- **Smart Watches**
 - Any smart watch worn to school must have **no internet connectivity, no messaging or calling functions, and no camera capability.**
 - Watches may only be used for telling the time during the school day.
- **General Conditions**
 - The privilege of bringing a phone or smart watch to school may be withdrawn if the device is used inappropriately.
 - Parents must discuss appropriate use of these devices with their child in line with the school's Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy.

Consent

I give permission for my child:

Name: _____

Class: _____

to bring a mobile phone and/or wear a smart watch to school under the conditions stated above.

I have read the policy and understand our responsibilities. I agree to the terms outlined in this agreement.

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____

Date: _____

Please return this completed form to the school office.

