

8 September 2025

Mobile Phones – for parents and carers of children in Y5 and Y6

Dear Parents and Carers,

The use of Mobile Phones by children at Hartley Brook is **restricted** when they attend our setting. Mobile phone use is becoming more common in the older year groups, and we have previously had incidences of inappropriate texts and messages being sent and unpleasantness amongst the children on WhatsApp and Snapchat groups. For this reason, we formulated a Mobile Phone Policy which is available on our website. This letter outlines the content of our Mobile Phone Policy. We appreciate that children in Y5 and Y6 do walk to and from school, without their parents, in preparation for the transition to secondary school and some families may wish for their child to have a mobile phone with them so that they are able to contact parents on the journey to or from school. **They may therefore bring a mobile phone to school provided it is handed in and turned off.** Parents must complete the permission slip, so we have a record that they wish their children to have a mobile phone on them.

Children must act responsibly when they bring their phone to school and we will trust them to adhere to our mobile phone policy. Children **must not** be in possession of a mobile phone during the school day as this increases the potential for distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse and can be a major safeguarding concern. If a child is found to have a mobile phone in their bag or pocket, without knowledge/permission, then the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day. The child will then have permission to bring the phone withdrawn and an after-school reflection.

Parents are required to complete a disclaimer about the phone being in school. **The school takes no responsibility whatsoever for any damage that occurs to the phone, whilst it is in school.** Parents will need to complete the mobile phone permission letter which will be given to your child.

Mobile phones must be **switched off** as soon as children enter the school grounds and must be **placed into the class box** when they enter the classroom. **They will then be transferred by a member of staff to an office where they will be locked away for safekeeping.** A member of staff will be at the school gate at the end of each day for your child to collect their phone.

Mobile phones are not allowed on residential visits or trips out of school during the school day. We cannot be held responsible for looking after children's mobile phones and for **safeguarding reasons**, it is not appropriate for the children to have their phones on their person on school trips. We kindly ask that children should not be wearing smart watches that connect to the internet in school as there is potential for children to be distracted by activity or for the smartwatch to be damaged or lost. We will however, allow children to wear a Fitbit if they are counting steps as this contributes to our ethos around healthy children performing better in school.

We care about the safety of our children and would like to ensure that the children are not at risk from online bullying, and we really do not want a repeat of some of the situations that have arisen this year through the use of mobile phones. Thank you for your support with this.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to check your child's phone each night, as we are dealing with some concerning online issues.

Reminder of APP age restrictions:



13	13+	16	18
Facebook Twitter Instagram Snapchat TikTok Kik Ask.fm Houseparty Periscope	Tumblr Pinterest Reddit	YouTube WeChat Whisper Yubo	LinkedIn Whatsapp
Tinder Bumble Hinge			

(13+ means with parental consent)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Costello
Principal