



Mobile Phones, Devices and Smart Watches Policy

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Next Review date:	1 st April 2027 Reviewed 12 th December 2025
Signature:	
Date Approved:	TBC

This policy provides clear guidance on the use of mobile phones, smart watches and other devices in school by pupils

Introduction and Aims

At The Mease Spencer Academy the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. The aim of this policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines.

This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones and smart watches are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, offering distractions and which are most susceptible to misuse - including the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying.

Smart Watches

We recognise that not all Smart Watches do have independent connectivity and/or cameras. However, staff are unable to monitor them closely enough to ensure that they are being used appropriately therefore no type of Smart Watch is permitted to be worn at school. However, in line with our passion for helping children to tell the time, a standard analogue or digital watch or a Fitbit may be worn.

Location Tracking Devices (including AirTags)

Location-tracking devices such as Apple AirTags, Tile trackers or similar products are not permitted in school or on school trips. These devices should not be brought onto school grounds and must not be placed in pupils' bags, coats or belongings for the purposes of monitoring their movements.

Reasons for this include:

- **Safeguarding concerns:** Tracking devices can allow real-time monitoring of a child's location without the child or staff knowing, which creates privacy and safeguarding risks.
- **Potential misuse:** These devices can be used covertly, raising concerns about stalking, monitoring or locating other pupils or staff.
- **Distraction and anxiety:** Children may become distressed if they realise they are being tracked or if the device issues alerts.
- **Data protection and security:** Signals from tracking devices may compromise the privacy of others and are not compatible with the school's electronic safety policies.
- **Managing school trips safely:** Staff must be fully aware of any electronic devices taken off-site; hidden tracking devices create unknown variables that complicate risk management.

If a tracking device is found, it will be confiscated and returned to a parent/carer.

Is a mobile device needed?

Mobile devices, including smart watches, are not needed during the school day and therefore children are not permitted to bring these to school. However, if your child walks to school independently without adult supervision and you feel they require a device for the walk to and from school, then please read below and complete the permission slip (Appendix 1).

Mobile devices being bought to school

When a child needs to bring a phone/watch/device into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent. Your child must then follow the steps below:

- Devices (including phones and smart watches) should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own.
- Devices should be turned off before handing in to the class teacher at the start of the day
- Devices should be collected at the end of the day.

The school has the right to confiscate or search a mobile phone. In the unlikely event of needing to do this, we will endeavour to contact a parent or carer. As part of this agreement, your child should agree to unlock the phone if required by a member of staff.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone, tablet or smart watch of either other pupils or teachers, the device will be confiscated, and this will be regarded as a serious offence.

If images of other pupils or teacher have been taken, the device will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a senior teacher.

Should a pupil be found to be using their phone or devices inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege. *We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages and images as they can often be used to bully pupils. Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.*

Parents may want to look at the advice on www.internetmatters.org which explains how to add some parental controls to the phone and gives advice on how to keep children safe.

NB: You are advised that The Mease Spencer Academy accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones and other smart devices which are brought into school or school grounds.

Links with other policies and practices

This policy links with several other policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Code of conduct/staff behaviour policy
- IT data protection, security and acceptable use policies
- Online safety policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy



Mobile Phone, Devices and Smart Watch Policy Parent Consent Form

In accordance with our Mobile phone, Devices and Smart Watches policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone or Smart Watch to school on a regular basis, please sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to switch off their device as soon as they arrive at school
- The device should be handed into the teacher on arrival in the morning
- Your child's phone/watch should be appropriately marked so that they can recognise it
- Should your child be found using their phone, device or smart watch inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring them into school

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school.

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Mobile Phone, Devices and Smart Watch Policy Parent Consent Form

I/we give permission for our child (name)
in classto bring their mobile phone into school.

Please name the type of device

We have read the policy and understand its implications.

Signed Relationship with child.....

Name (please use capitals)

Date.....

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE MEASE SPENCER ACADEMY OFFICE

NB: The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone, tablet or Smart Watch