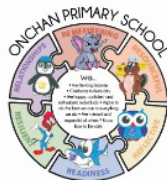




"Learning is a journey, to be taken together, one step at a time"



Onchan Primary School
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD
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Onchan School Policy on mobile devices (Pupil version)

Introduction

Onchan School has developed a clear policy on allowing pupils to bring mobile technology into school and this policy makes explicit reference to phones, smart watches and developing mobile devices.

Camera Mobile Phones

Camera mobile phones are now part of every-day use and a built-in digital camera enables users to take high resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or on different platforms on social media.

There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against other pupils or/and in some instances, adults. Devices which have the capacity to take photos are not permitted in the classroom, other than school provided devices used as part of learning.

Smart watches

Emerging technology, that is continually becoming more sophisticated, is being accessed by younger pupils. Many devices have similar, sophisticated technology to that found on mobile phones. Many of the dangers are the same. There is potential for misuse and distraction if they are utilised within the school day. They are easily damaged and this in turn has the potential for large amounts of time being given to the causes and solution both within the school day and beyond it. Smart watches which have the capacity to be connected to the internet and/or take pictures, and/or play games etc if worn to school, must be stored in the same way as other mobile devices, ie in the School Office. Watches which just record time and steps are allowed as the children often enjoy the challenge of step counting daily.

Rationale

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone or device to school, **if they walk to and from school without adult supervision**, Onchan School strongly discourages pupils bringing mobile phones and other devices to school due to the potential issues raised above.

When a child needs to bring a device into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent and the device must be left in the School Office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day by the pupil.

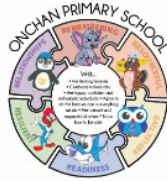
Devices must be clearly marked with an identifying name so that each pupil knows their own item and it is easily distinguishable.

Parents are advised that Onchan School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to any equipment which is brought into school or school grounds. All devices are brought at a family's own risk. School provides all equipment necessary for normal daily learning.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to have failed to follow this policy, the item will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the Office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the device. It will be stored by the school office in the usual way. The pupil may collect it at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a



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permission slip be returned the next day. If this practice continues more than three times, then the school will confiscate the device until an appropriate adult collects it from a senior teacher.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile device of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious matter and contact will be made instantly with Parents.

Should a pupil be found to be using their device inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring it into school.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils. Examples of this would be Whatsapp, Snapchat, Tik Tok. The school and Department of Education Sport and Culture (IOM) endorse the use of the Safer Schools App which offers on its platform valuable information to support the appropriate use of mobile technology and its' dangers. The school has developed a programme for teaching appropriate use of technology which is ongoing throughout the academic year.

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. **Pupils will have no access to their devices during school time.**

***There may be some individuals that need their mobile phone with them due to medical reasons (eg. Dexcom monitors). In this case, a meeting should be arranged with the class teacher will need to take place to ensure the phone is being used appropriately.**

Parents are encouraged to discuss with children whether bringing a device to school is essential for this reason.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Internet/Esafety policies. This policy will be monitored and reviewed as required but at least every two years.

January 2026



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Mobile Phone/ Smart Watch/ Devices Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer

In accordance with our mobile devices policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile device including wrist tech to school, please could you 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 bring their device to the school office first thing in the morning before they go their classroom. Phones will be signed in and out and checked for damage.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a device
- Your child's device needs to be appropriately marked with their name so that they can recognise it
- Should your child be found using their device inappropriately, the school reserves the right

to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their device into school.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Jo Richardson

Head teacher

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MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT

I/we give permission for our child (name) in Year to bring their mobile device into school.

My child needs this device in school each day because:

.....

We have read the policy and understand its' implications

Signed Date.....

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THANK YOU.