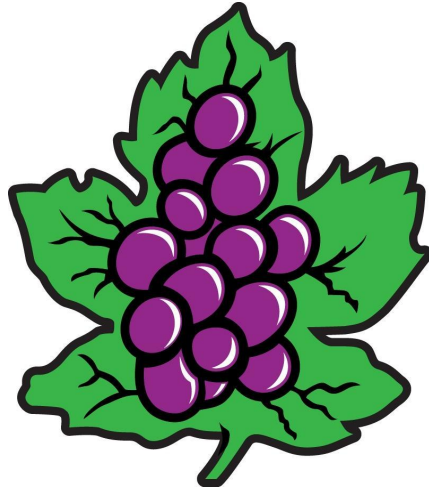




MOBILE PHONE AND SMART WATCH POLICY FOR PUPILS

Kerem School

Approved by:	Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee	Written: August 2024
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Last reviewed	April 2026	Next review due by: August 2027
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KEREM SCHOOL **(This policy also applies to the Early Years Foundation Stage)**

Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy for Pupils

Mobile Phones

To ensure the safety and welfare of children in our care and of all staff, we operate a personal mobile phone usage policy which stipulates that pupils may not bring mobile phones to school.

Exceptions will only be made for pupils who are **Lone Walkers** (see definition below) who require a phone for safety reasons. If a child is classified as a 'Lone Walker, they can bring a basic phone.

Smartphones are not permitted. Should a child bring a smartphone to school, it will be collected by the teacher and handed back directly to the child's parents. Should there be repeated incidences of a child bringing a smartphone to school, their permission to have a phone may be revoked.

Definitions

- **Lone Walker:** A pupil who walks between home and school without the supervision of an adult
- A lone walker is not someone who walks to an adult who is waiting in the vicinity of the school.

Guidelines

1. Prohibition of Mobile Phones

- Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school unless they fall under the lone walker category.
- If they are permitted to bring a phone, this **cannot be a smartphone**; it must be a 'basic' phone which does not allow internet access.

2. Lone Walker Exception

- Lone walkers may bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons.
- Parents must provide a written request to the school, explaining the necessity for their child to have a phone. This phone cannot be a smartphone.
- The request should include confirmation that the pupil walks to and/or from school alone.

3. Phone Usage and Storage

- Lone walkers must turn off their phones upon arrival at the school gate.
- Phones should be handed to the staff member in the School Office, where it will be locked away.
- Phones will be returned to pupils at the end of the school day.
- Failure to hand in a phone will result in it being taken by school staff. Parents will be informed that their child did not hand in their phone and it will only be returned to a parent/guardian.

4. Responsibility

- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged phones.
- It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure the phone is turned off and handed in at the appropriate time.

Smartwatches

- Smart Watches are **not permitted** in school. Should a child bring one in, it will be treated in the same way as a phone (see above guidelines).
- Digital watches that only work as a step counter are permitted. However, if a step-counting watch also has the ability to be used for photos or communication, we will ask children not to wear these or to hand them to their class teacher. Should step-counting watches become a distraction, children will not be permitted to wear them. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This forms part of our Safeguarding Policy and is reviewed in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy annually.

Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones Policy

Parent Permission

I have read and understand the above information about the appropriate use of mobile phones in school and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) if the phone is being used inappropriately.

I give my child permission to carry a basic mobile phone to school because they travel to and from school alone. I understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in this document. I understand and agree that this permission may be revoked by the Headteacher at any time if there is a breach of school policy. I understand that the school will accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for theft, loss or damage to the mobile phone.

I understand that the phone my child brings should not be a smartphone.

Parent name (print) _____

Parent signature _____

Child's name (print) _____

Mobile phone number _____

Child's signature _____

Date _____

Permission is given for your child to bring a mobile phone to school.

Headteacher signature _____ Date _____

A copy of this form will be returned to the parent once permission is given and must be surrendered to the school if permission is revoked due to misuse of the phone.