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Personal Digital Devices Policy

Hatton (Cruden) School is a Rights Respecting School, and this policy reflects Articles 16 (the right to privacy), 17 (access to information) and 24 (a safe environment) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As a general rule, pupils are not permitted to carry mobile phones or any other personal digital device on their person or property in school. The main reason for this rule is to protect our pupils by minimising the potential for inappropriate use of devices.

We fully understand that there may be situations where parents may wish for their child to carry a mobile phone to and from school for their safety, and we ask that in these instances, the school office is notified, and that the device is handed in to the school office at the beginning of each school day and collected upon leaving the school building at the end of the day. However, it is important to note that any property taken into school remains the responsibility of the parent/guardian and pupil, therefore, any loss, damage or theft incurred are not covered by the school's insurance.

If for any reason staff are not notified at the beginning of the school day where a pupil does have a mobile phone in their possession on school premises, or where a pupil is found to be using a mobile phone throughout the course of the school day, the phone will be removed from the pupil and stored in the school office and will need to be collected by an adult at the end of the school day. This will result in pupils receiving a break/lunchtime forfeit as well as not being permitted to carry their phone to school in the future.

It has also been brought to our attention that there are some pupils wearing SMART watches or carrying IPad/tablet devices in their school bags. We would actively discourage the wearing of these watches in school and must remind you that any personal digital device on school property should be declared at the beginning of the school day so that it can be safely stored away. If the SMART watch must be worn, then it must be switched to the setting where the facility for receiving and sending calls or messages is disabled. Again, should any of these devices be found either undeclared or being used inappropriately, the device will be locked away and will need to be collected by an adult at the end of the school day, and the pupil will no longer be permitted to carry this item to school.

The safety of our pupils is taken as a priority at our school, and I thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Kind regards,

Mrs Stacey Beattie and Miss Natasha Clueit