



Re: Smart Watches

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we navigate the evolving landscape of technology and its impact on our students' lives, we wish to share our school's policy regarding mobile phones, smartwatches, and personal devices in line with our Child Protection and ICT and Internet policy. These gadgets have become important tools in our society, and it is essential that we educate our pupils on their responsible and appropriate use.

Our primary aims with these policies are as follows:

- To educate pupils in the responsible and appropriate use of mobile phone technology.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of our students by preventing 'cyberbullying'. Cyberbullying is defined as the deliberate use of information and communication technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to upset someone.
- To help pupils take responsibility for their own e-safety. E-safety involves limiting the risks pupils encounter when using technology, ensuring that all devices are used safely, appropriately, and securely.
- To ensure that mobile phones and personal devices are used responsibly and in accordance with school policies.

Moreover, in alignment with our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Computing curriculum, all pupils, regardless of their year group, will receive instruction on the responsible use of technology, tailored to their age group. They will be made aware of the boundaries surrounding the use of technology and the consequences of any misuse.

It is important to note that as part of our policies, **pupils are not permitted to wear smartwatches at Thomas Hickman.** We understand that this may be met with some surprise, but we believe that creating a focused learning environment is paramount.

We appreciate your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful atmosphere for all our students. Should you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please feel free to contact the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,