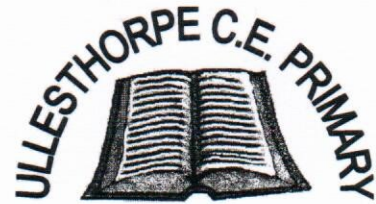


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Executive Headteacher: Miss E Prokipczuk

11th February 2019

RE: Smartwatches in school

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Last week we have had to deal with some issues in school regarding a Smartwatch and photos potentially being taken by the child wearing it. It did highlight to us the potential safeguarding risk that this could bring into a school setting.

Parents / carers sign to say whether or not they allow their child to have a photograph taken in school when they are admitted to our school and whether they allow it to be used on the internet etc. Some parents do not want their child's picture on the internet or they want control over when they do appear online. Whilst staff are incredibly vigilant in terms of safeguarding, there are times in the day when children could potentially take recordings on such devices. Recordings could also be taken whilst children are travelling to and from school. These recordings can then instantaneously be synchronised to other devices (outside of school) and are at risk of being shared with unknown sources or published on the internet / social media e.g. via wifi / Bluetooth / 4G.

This is a huge safeguarding matter to us.

We are therefore requesting that children do NOT wear a Smartwatch to school if it has the functionality to take photographs or record audio / video on it.

Smartwatches are also gaining other functionalities and we are finding that children can become distracted in class by checking their devices for updates or attempting to play games.

A basic step counter or digital watch is fine **but devices that allow games or receive media messages are not acceptable in school.**

As time goes by and devices gain additional functionality this guidance will need to be updated.

I thank you in anticipation of your support in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E. Prokipczuk

