Cwrt Rawlin Primary School: Policy on Personal Items

Purpose:
The aim of this policy is to create a focused, safe, and positive learning environment by limiting the presence of personal items that could distract pupils or disrupt their/others' engagement in classroom activities.

This policy applies to all children at Cwrt Rawlin Primary School during school hours and while children are on school site, including breaks, lunchtime, and after school activities.

Prohibited Personal Items:

The following personal items are **not permitted** at school:

- **Mobile Phones:** Except for children in Years 5 & 6, see below.
- **Smartwatches**: Devices that can receive notifications, messages, or make calls.
- **Game Devices**: Any personal gaming consoles or portable gaming devices.
- **Personal Alarms**: Devices used for personal alerts, reminders, or notifications.
- Any other personal item that school staff deem inappropriate that is not conducive to learning or meets concern for pupil safety.

These items can be distracting and may interfere with pupils' ability to engage fully in their learning. Items such as personal alarms have the potential to cause unnecessary distress to others. Devices which connect to the internet or allow photo, video and audio recordings have the potential to cause breaches of data protection. We ask that parents ensure their children do not bring such items to school unless explicit permission is given by the school in exceptional circumstances (e.g for monitoring a medical condition).

Mobile Phones:

- **Year 5 and Year 6 pupils**: Mobile phones may be brought to school by pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 only. This is to ensure safety while traveling to and from home/school.

- **Usage**: Mobile phones must be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the school day. They will be securely stored by staff and returned to pupils at the end of the school day for the journey home.

- **Responsibility**: It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure the phone is handed in and collected at the appropriate times. Devices brought into school are at your own risk, and the school will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones.

Rationale:

- **Minimising Distractions**: By limiting personal items, such as mobile phones, smartwatches, alarms and gaming devices, we can help pupils stay focused on their learning, school activities and create a safe learning environment for all.

- **Ensuring Safety**: Mobile phones are allowed for pupils in Year 5 and 6 for safety reasons when walking home. Children in years 5 and 6 who are collected by an adult should not bring their mobile phone to school.

- **Encouraging Positive Social Interactions**: Limiting personal devices encourages pupils to engage more in face-to-face interactions with peers and teachers, promoting a more inclusive and engaging school environment.

Exceptions:

- **Special Circumstances**: For children who require a device for medical reasons (e.g. for health monitoring), parents should inform the school in writing, to request an exemption.

Enforcement:

- **First Offense**: The personal item will be taken away from the child and stored securely. The device will be returned to the pupil at the end of the day, along with a reminder of the policy.

- **Second Offense**: A letter will be sent to the pupils' parents/guardians, and the item will be kept securely until the end of the school day.

- **Subsequent Offenses**: Repeated violations may result in further disciplinary actions, such as a meeting with parents or a temporary ban from bringing any personal items to school.

Implementation:

This policy will be communicated to all pupils and parents at the start of the academic year and will be reinforced during assemblies, class discussions, and through the school newsletter. This policy will be available on the school website. Staff will monitor compliance with the policy, and any concerns can be addressed directly with a member of the senior leadership team.

By adhering to this policy, Cwrt Rawlin Primary School ensures a focused, safe, and positive environment for all pupils, allowing them to engage fully in their education and school life.