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Ysgol Rhydypennau - Polisi ar gyfer / Policy for:

Ffonau Symudol, Dyfeisiadau Clyfar a rhai wedi'u Galluogi'r Rhyngrwyd

Mobile Phones, Smart Devices and Internet Enabled Devices Policy

Mabwysiadwyd y Polisi hwn ar: *This Policy was adopted on:*	Hydref 5ed 2026 *October 5th 2026*
Arwyddwyd: Ar ran y Corff Llywodraethol *Signed: On behalf of the Governing Body*	Rhodri Morgan
Dyddiad Adolygu'r Polisi hwn: *Date to revise this policy:*	Hydref 2028 *October 2028*
Pobl enwebedig i adolygu'r Polisi hwn: *Named officers to revise this policy:*	Pennaeth a Chadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr *Headteacher & Chair of Governors*

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety, wellbeing and effective education of all pupils by restricting the use of mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices on the school site, and for all school activities / visits.

The school recognises that modern digital devices can provide communication, entertainment and internet access. However, these devices also present safeguarding risks and can distract pupils from learning. This policy has therefore been established to create a safe, secure and focused learning environment.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils attending the school.

For the purposes of this policy, the term **internet-enabled device** includes, but is not limited to:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smart watches
- Tablets
- Portable gaming devices with internet connectivity
- Cameras
- Fitness trackers with communication or internet functions
- Any other device capable of:
    - Connecting to the internet
    - Sending or receiving messages
    - Taking photographs or video recordings
    - Making audio recordings
    - Storing images, videos or other personal information
    - Play games

3. Policy Statement

Pupils are **not permitted to bring or use mobile phones, smart watches or other internet-enabled devices during the school day** and for all school activities / visits .

This restriction is in place because such devices:

- Can access the internet and online content that may be inappropriate or unsafe.
- Can send and receive messages without supervision.
- Can take photographs, videos or audio recordings, creating safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- Can store images and personal information.
- May facilitate cyberbullying or inappropriate communication.
- Can cause distraction from teaching, learning and social interaction.
- May be lost, damaged or stolen.

The school's priority is to maintain a safe environment where pupils can focus fully on learning and where the privacy and wellbeing of all members of the school community are protected.

4. Exceptional Circumstances

The school recognises that there may occasionally be valid reasons for a pupil to bring a device to school.

One example is; where a Type 1 Diabetic child is reliant on a device which continuously monitors blood sugar glucose and which operates a device such as a T-slim insulin pump.

Another example may be where a child travels between two parental homes and requires a phone or other communication device after school because they will not be returning to the same household.

In such circumstances:

- Parents must inform the school in advance where possible.
- The device must be switched off before entering the school premises.
- The device must be handed directly to the school office/reception immediately upon arrival at school.
- The device will be securely stored by the school during the school day.
- The device will be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

The Headteacher reserves the right to approve or refuse requests for exceptions based on individual circumstances and safeguarding considerations.

5. Smart Watches

Smart watches capable of:

- Internet access,
- Messaging,
- Calling,
- Photography,
- Audio recording, or
- Location sharing

are not permitted in school.

Simple watches that tell the time and have no communication or internet functionality may be worn.

6. Use During the School Day

Pupils must not:

- Use mobile phones or internet-enabled devices on the school premises, or on any school activities or excursions off the premises.
- Access the internet through personal devices during the school day.
- Photograph, film or record staff, pupils or visitors.
- Share images, videos or messages using personal devices.

Any necessary use of technology for educational purposes will be provided through school-managed devices and systems.

7. Devices Brought to School Against Policy

If a pupil brings a prohibited device to school without prior agreement:

- The device will be confiscated and stored securely.
- Parents/carers may be informed.
- Repeated breaches may result in further action in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.

The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of unauthorised devices brought onto the premises.

8. Safeguarding Considerations

This policy forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements.

Restricting internet-enabled devices helps to:

- Protect pupils' privacy.
- Reduce the risk of unauthorised photography or recording.
- Prevent access to inappropriate online content.
- Reduce opportunities for cyberbullying.
- Support a safe and inclusive learning environment.
- Ensure that any communication during the school day is appropriately managed through school procedures.

9. Use of Mobile Phones and Recording Devices by Parents, Carers and Visitors

To safeguard pupils, staff and visitors, parents, carers and visitors must not take photographs, videos or audio recordings whilst on school premises unless expressly authorised by the school.

This includes:

- Meetings with class teachers.
- Meetings with the Headteacher or other members of staff.
- Parents' evenings.
- ALN reviews.
- Behaviour, welfare or safeguarding meetings.
- Any other appointment held on school premises.

Unauthorised recording of conversations, meetings or interactions is strictly prohibited.

Where a member of staff reasonably suspects that a parent, carer or visitor is making an unauthorised recording, they may:

- Remind the individual of the school's policy.
- Request confirmation that no recording is taking place.
- Pause or end the meeting if the concern cannot be resolved.
- Refer the matter to the Headteacher for further consideration.

The school reserves the right to terminate a meeting or restrict access arrangements where safeguarding, privacy, confidentiality or staff wellbeing may be compromised.

10. Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Follow this policy at all times.
- Hand in devices as required.
- Report any concerns relating to devices or online safety to a member of staff.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Support the school's approach to safeguarding and learning.
- Ensure that children are not sent to school with prohibited devices.
- Inform the Headteacher where an exception may be required.

School Staff

Staff will:

- Apply this policy consistently.
- Store authorised devices securely.
- Act on any safeguarding concerns arising from the use of digital devices in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure it remains effective and reflects current safeguarding guidance and technological developments.