

## **Mobile Phone Statement**

This statement outlines The Tapscott Learning Trust's (the Trust) position on mobile phone use by children which has been created to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

### **Scope**

This statement applies to all children enrolled at all TTLT schools. It does not apply to staff or visitors, who are expected to follow separate guidance on appropriate mobile phone use, which is set at each school.

### **Statement**

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used by children at any point of the school day. During the school day, including during lessons, break times, lunch periods and in before or after school clubs, in any TTLT school or within the grounds of the school. This includes smartwatches and other connected devices with communication capabilities.

### **Safeguarding Rational:**

- Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.
- Learning focus: Phones are a distraction and can disrupt lessons and concentration.
- Social development: Encouraging face-to-face interaction supports emotional and social growth.
- Equity: Reduces pressure on families to provide expensive devices.

### **Implementation Before and After School:**

Children who need a phone for safety reasons (e.g. walking home alone), must hand their mobile phone into the school (collection points to be determined by the school) upon arrival and collect it at the end of the day. Phones must be switched off and stored securely by staff during school hours. During school hours children are not permitted to use or access mobile phones. Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case.

### **Communication with Parents**

- This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school. Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.

Monitoring and Review - This statement will be reviewed every 2 years by the Trust's SLT and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, safeguarding guidance or Trust/school needs.