



Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hawley Primary is Smartphone-Free

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to share some important updates about our approach to smartphones at school and the arrangements for Year 6 pupils who may walk home independently.

Our Smartphone-Free Policy - Why we're doing this

We're committed to creating calm, focused and safe learning environments that support children's wellbeing, concentration and positive relationships. There's growing evidence that smartphones can impact children's mental health, sleep and social development, so we want to help protect our pupils during the school day.

Our smartphone-free policy aligns with the Department for Education's non-statutory mobile phone guidance and behaviour guidance. Additionally, the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 guidance includes an expectation that schools have a policy which sets out that they are mobile phone-free by default. This national guidance recognises the growing concerns about the impact of smartphones on children's wellbeing, concentration and safety. By implementing this policy, we're following best practice and helping to create a safer, more focused learning environment for all our pupils. Our Smartphone Free Policy can be found on our website. www.hawleyprimary.co.uk

What this means

From September 2026, our school will operate as a smartphone-free school. Smartphones and other smart devices are not permitted on school premises. This applies during school hours, on trips, and at any school-led activities. Adults are kindly asked to refrain from using their smartphones while on school premises.

What about basic phones?

We understand some families may want their child to have a phone for the journey to and from school. Only non-smart phones without internet access, cameras or apps may be brought. Phones must be switched off on arrival, handed to a member of staff at the start of the day, stored securely and returned at the end of the day. Phones must not be used on the school site.

What happens if the policy isn't followed?

If a smartphone or smart device is brought to school, it will be confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted. We'll work with you to resolve any issues, but repeated breaches may be managed through our positive relationships and behaviour management policy.

Year 6 Children Walking Home Independently

We recognise that some Year 6 pupils are ready for the responsibility of walking home alone. If you decide that this is right for your child, please complete the attached consent form and return it to the school office by Monday 7th September. We need this before your child can walk home independently.

What we expect

- Pupils should follow agreed routes and get home within a reasonable time
- If your child has a basic phone, they must not use it until they've left the school premises

Hawley Primary School
Headteacher: Jane Baker

Hawley Road, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 9BH
Telephone: 01276 31048
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Hampshire
County Council



- We'll check permissions before allowing any pupil to leave unaccompanied

If things change

You can withdraw permission at any time – just let us know. We may also need to withdraw permission if we have safety concerns.

In an emergency

If your child doesn't arrive home as expected, please contact the school immediately.

Read through the attached Year 6 Walking Home Consent Form and return it to the school office if you'd like your child to walk home alone.

Thank you for your support in keeping Hawley Primary a safe and happy place for all our children.

Year 6 Walking Home Consent Form

Please complete and return to the school office.

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

☐ I give permission for my child to walk home alone from Hawley Primary School

I understand that:

- I've talked to my child about safe routes and what we expect
- My child must not use their phone (if they have one) until they've left the school site
- I'll let the school know straight away if I want to change this arrangement

Your Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Emergency Contact Number: _____

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