

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again for your thoughtful feedback following our recent communication regarding the move towards becoming a smartphone-free school community. We have been encouraged by the positive responses and the supportive conversations many of you have initiated.

Recent weeks have also seen significant national developments. As you may be aware, the government has now taken a much stronger position on mobile phone bans in schools. This includes clearer national guidance and strengthened expectations around enforcement, with Ofsted now checking schools' mobile-phone policies and how effectively they are implemented, during every inspection. This shift reflects concerns that many of you, and many educators, ourselves included, across the country, have been raising for some time.

There is so much support and research that demonstrates that, when schools adopt a smartphone-free-by-default culture, not only do they become calmer and more focused learning environments but the familiar "*everyone else has one*" pressure is greatly reduced, which must only be a positive.

Alongside this, the Smartphone Free Childhood movement continues to highlight compelling statistics about the effects of smartphone use on children's wellbeing, sleep, concentration and social relationships. These findings continue to guide our shared approach locally.

As a group of local headteachers, our commitment remains to support families, act reasonably and make this transition well-informed and manageable for all.

Policy Headlines for September 2026

As shared previously, our collective policy, effective from September 2026, will include:

- Smartphones and other smart devices will not be permitted on school premises.
- Parents of all children are strongly discouraged from allowing children to own or use a smartphone
- Non-smart 'brick' phones may be used for communication to and from school, as requested by parents. Mobile phones will be handed in to staff at the start of the school day.
- The policy will be adopted across our partner primary and secondary schools for consistency.

Further to these changes, to support families who still wish their child to have a simple means of communication without the risks associated with smartphones we would like

to direct you to the following websites: [Smartphone Alternatives for Kids](https://www.kidsfornow.org.uk/alternatives)
<https://www.kidsfornow.org.uk/alternatives> <https://www.papayatalks.com/resources>

We appreciate that for some families this shift may require additional planning, whether practical, personal or financial. While this policy will not be relevant to an increasing number of parents already moving away from smartphones, we want every family to feel heard and supported. If you would like to discuss how this change affects your child or raise financial concerns regarding the move to an approved alternative device, please contact us before the Easter holidays.

The final policy will be submitted to Governors for ratification in May.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to shape healthier digital habits and create the best possible environment for our children.

Yours sincerely,

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