

17th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of all children in our Fleet schools,

In recent months there has been growing awareness of the harmful effects of smartphones on children's mental, physical and overall well-being and social development. This important safeguarding issue has received extensive media coverage and thousands of parents have joined national campaigns such as [Smartphone Free Childhood](#), which are committed to changing the 'social norm' of children having a personal smartphone at increasingly young ages.

The analysis of our recent parent survey in Fleet also highlighted significant concern from our parents around children's extensive screen time use and the arguments this can cause at home, along with children's disengagement from hobbies, family activities and in-person social interaction over time.

Worryingly, in our schools, we have seen first-hand how smartphone use is increasingly having a negative impact on children's happiness, well-being and safety; and this is filtering down to younger ages each year. This includes our concerns around

- Exposure to bullying behaviour, including the use of unkind words, inappropriate language and sharing/receiving images via social media/apps (including as part of WhatsApp groups).
- The pressure of peer comparison and 'keeping up with their friends'
- Children's exposure to inappropriate content, language and potentially harmful information.
- How children can be easily targeted, exploited, scammed and groomed.
- Children presenting with lack of sleep, reduced concentration and social communication difficulties.

Therefore, in line with schools in Basingstoke and other areas of the county and country, we will be introducing a new, phased, smartphone policy across all Fleet schools as follows;

From 1 January 2026 children in primary, infant and junior schools (Year R to Year 6) will not be permitted to bring a smartphone to school. This also applies to Smartwatches. Each school will have their own policy for smartphones in Year 6 between September 2025 and January 2026.

From 1 September 2026 students entering Year 7 from that date will not be permitted to bring smartphones onto school premises. With each successive academic year one more cohort of secondary school students will not be allowed to bring a smartphone to school. Secondary schools will have their own policies for this.

Every decision we make in schools is based on what we, as professionals, believe is in the children's best interest. The safeguarding and welfare of every child will always be our main priority and we know that, as parents, you are committed to keeping your child/ren safe too. We have listened to your views in our schools and through the shared survey result. All fourteen schools have been working together to agree how we can play an active part in reducing children's exposure to potential online risks that unsupervised smartphone access presents.

We recognise that parents/carers may have some questions regarding these changes and so we have put together some FAQs along with some information below which we hope will reassure you and also address some of the questions/views parents shared in the recent survey.

We appreciate that change is not easy but are confident that this is the right decision for all our schools and, most importantly, for the future wellbeing of all the children in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Dunn
Heatherside Junior School

Together with:

Mrs. T. Brunton	Headteacher, All Saints CoE Junior School
Mr. K. John	Headteacher, Calthorpe Park School
Miss. P Meek	Headteacher, Church Crookham Junior School
Mrs. C. Beattie	Headteacher, Court Moor School
Mrs. J. Leatham	Headteacher, Crondall Primary School
Mrs. H. Inglis	Headteacher, Crookham CoE Infant School
Mrs. D.Nicholass	Headteacher, Dogmersfield CoE Primary School
Mrs.M.Robinson	Headteacher, Elvetham Heath Primary School
Mrs. M.Clarke	Headteacher, Fleet Infant School
Miss. L. Norris	Acting Headteacher, Heatherside Infant School
Mrs. J.O'Connor	Headteacher, Tavistock Infant School
Mrs.K.Tottem	Headteacher, Tweseldown Infant School
Mrs. J. Westhead	Acting Headteacher, Velmead Junior School

My child has a medical condition that requires a smartphone to manage this. Can they still bring their smartphone to school?

Yes, this will form part of your child's Medical Plan and be part of your partnership work with the school to support your child's specific medical condition.

I am concerned about my child walking to and from school independently in case they need to contact me or I need to contact them. How can I manage this?

Older Key Stage 2 children may be permitted, subject to each school's own policy, to bring a 'Brick/block' phone to school. 'Brick phones' are devices that do not have Internet access and do not have a camera. Please see some examples of accepted phones below, which will need to be used with a non-data SIM card:

Nokia 105 Samsung E1200 Alcatel 10.16G

All schools contact parents if a child is absent at morning registration without the school having been informed.

Some other solutions for parents shared by a local primary school include

- Organising for your child to walk with a group of other children / meeting place
- Having a ['data free sim' phone](#) for them to text when they're home with an agreed 'text by' time set by parents or using a Ring door bell to see times in/out of the house.
- A Buddy system with another trusted adult (as well as the walking groups)
- Sharing the [Clever Never Goes](#) resources at home with your child before they walk independently.

Some schools may also permit children to have [a bluetooth tracker](#) such an 'Airtag' on their bags, this will be subject to each school's own policy.

What if I need to contact my child in the school day?

If you need to get a message to your child during the day or they need to contact you, this will be done via the school office. This also helps support school safeguarding procedures and ensures that the right messages are passed on.

My child needs a smartphone to access and complete their homework. How will they engage with homework if they don't have one?

For Primary, Infant and Junior schools, children do not require a smartphone for homework. Both secondary schools are currently reviewing their policies and procedures for homework/timetables etc in light of this decision and will communicate any changes with you directly.