



Whitchurch Church of England Primary School

17th June 2025,

Dear Parents,

You will probably be aware of the national campaign for a 'Smartphone Free Childhood'. As a school, we are joining together with a number of other primary schools across Basingstoke and Deane to support this movement.

Our current school rule around mobile phones is that only children in Year 5 and 6 are allowed to bring a phone into school if parents feel it is needed to enable them to walk to and from school independently. These phones must be switched off whilst on school premises and should be handed to the teacher as soon as they enter the classroom. These phones are then stored safely until the end of the school day. No children in other year groups should be bringing a mobile phone to school.

From September this year, only Year 6 children will be able to bring a smartphone to school if this is needed for them walking to or from school independently. This is something which we will allow as we know that some of these children have already been doing that this year, but we would encourage parents to think carefully before starting this if they haven't done so already. No other children will be able to bring a smartphone into school. We will however, allow children in Year 5 or 6 to bring an old style 'brick phone' without internet capability which can make calls and texts only if parents feel this is needed. The same rules will apply about turning phones off and handing them in. Parents will need to continue to give permission for their child to bring their phone to school.

Earlier this term we ran a parent workshop led by Papaya to share some of the thinking and understanding around why the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' campaign has come about. If you were unable to attend this session, the Basingstoke and Deane primary schools have organised a few more opportunities to see this presentation in an online webinar. Please click the link for further information. [Smartphone Free Basingstoke - Papaya Webinars June July 25](#)

Finally, there is a parent pact which we would encourage parents to look at and consider signing up to regarding delaying the purchase of a smartphone for your child. [Sign the Hampshire Parent Pact](#)

Please see the attached collective letter from all of the Basingstoke and Deane primary schools which contains some further information and click on the link to watch this short video. [School Smartphone Changes and the Smartphone Free Parent Pact](#)

We appreciate that this is a real challenge for parents to navigate but we feel it is an important step in supporting children in their personal and social development as well as supporting their mental health. We hope that you once you have had chance to explore the materials that you will understand the importance of this change.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Dunwell
Acting Headteacher

