



Headteacher: Pam Meek

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/carers over 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.

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:

- Cyberbullying and inappropriate content shared via social media (including WhatsApp),
- Exposure harmful material and online exploitation, including grooming and scamming, and
- 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.

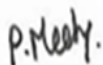
**From 1 September 2026** students entering Year 7 from that date will not be permitted to bring smartphones onto school premises. With each successive academic year, one more cohort of secondary school students will not be allowed to bring a smartphone to school.

**By 1 September 2030** all Fleet schools will be smartphone-free.

Every decision we make in schools is based on what we, as professionals, believe is in the children's best interests. 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. 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 many of you 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,



Pam Meek  
Headteacher,

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. Clark, Headteacher, Fleet Infant School

Miss. L. Norris, Acting Headteacher, Heatherside Infant School

Mrs. H. Dunn, Headteacher, Heatherside Junior School

Mrs. J. O'Connor, Headteacher, Tavistock Infant School

Mrs. K. Tottem, Headteacher, Tweseldown Infant School

Mr. A. Howard, Headteacher, Velmead Junior School