



# STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



AIMING HIGH ... FLYING HIGHER

Everything we do makes a difference to our children; empowering minds and shaping futures.

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Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## SMARTPHONES AT STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you to all parents who completed the smartphone survey last month. I am writing today to share some of the results and the next steps for Stokenchurch Primary School.

### Key Results

- We received 155 responses (38% of the school community).
- Among respondents, 75% of Year 5 and 6 children currently have a smartphone.
- 80% of parents said they would choose an alternative phone (e.g. brick/simple/child phone) instead of a smartphone as a first phone, if others in their child's peer group did the same.
- 62% of parents expressed interest in joining a voluntary Parent Pact to wait until at least the end of Year 9 before giving their child a smartphone, helping to reduce peer pressure.

### Comments from parents included:

- "A lot of children in Year 6 have access to apps that are not age-relevant. When they are all at youth club, it worries me that my child can be shown content via other children's phones."
- "I wish we'd never given my son a smartphone, as it has become an addiction despite the restrictions we've implemented."
- "There's so much pressure as parents – with children bringing phones into school and using them as status symbols. I can't see a way to prevent my child from having one without them feeling left out."
- "My child is not interested in having a brick phone because it singles him out. I'd love there to be a zero smartphone policy – if all children were only allowed a brick phone that was locked away during the day, the journey to/from school and the evening WhatsApp craziness would be far less of an issue."
- "We believe smartphones are for adults."

### Smartphone Free Childhood

Stokenchurch Primary School is proud to support the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative – a growing, grassroots movement led by families, carers, and educators who are working together to rethink the role of smartphones in children's lives. It is not about judgement, but about giving families the confidence to wait and the support to act together. We encourage all parents to watch this short, informative video that explains the situation: [Why Wait? – Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and can help them feel secure, particularly when travelling to and from school. However, smartphones can also pose significant concerns, including:

- Distraction from learning
- Sleep disruption and anxiety
- Opportunities for unkind or unsafe online behaviour
- Increased screen time affecting focus and wellbeing

As a school, we are spending a growing amount of time dealing with the fallout from smartphone-related incidents—time that could otherwise be spent supporting children's learning, personal development, and mental health.

In light of increasing evidence about the impact of smartphones on children, **we strongly recommend that you do not give your child a smartphone.**

We also want to remind you of our current policy:

*For pupils in Year 5 and 6, if a parent wishes for a child to bring a mobile phone or device to contact them after school, the phase leader must first approve this. The device must be labelled, **switched off**, and handed to the class teacher at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. The school will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.*

**READY RESPECTFUL SAFE RESILIENT CURIOUS CONFIDENT INDEPENDENT SUCCESSFUL**

### Information for Parents and Children

- We are hoping to run a Smartphone Free Childhood event for parents in the Autumn term to discuss the issues around smartphones for children. In the meantime, if you are interested in connecting with other local families, you can:
  - Join our school [Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group](#)
  - Sign the [Parent Pact](#) to delay giving your child a smartphone
  - Exploring alternatives to smartphones, via the [suggested non-smartphones for children](#) guide
- At home, we encourage you to talk openly with your child about their online experiences. Let them know they can come to you with any worries.
- We recommend that children do not have devices in bedrooms overnight, as this can negatively impact sleep, safety, and emotional wellbeing.
- At school, children continue to have weekly discussions about online safety as part of Computing and PSHE lessons. Additionally, in September, Year 5 & 6 children will take part in a screentime workshop run by the charity, [Papaya parents](#).

If you wish to discuss this any further, please email the school office.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Nick Stevens**  
Headteacher