



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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16th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

SMARTPHONES AT STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL – UPDATE

Following the consultation with parents earlier this year and discussion at the recent governors' meeting, I am writing to update you on our next steps regarding smartphone use at **STOKENCHURCH** Primary School & Nursery.

As mentioned in our [previous letter sharing survey results and current policy](#), discussions showed that while some children already have smartphones, many parents would prefer to delay introducing them if supported across the year group. We also heard strong concerns about the pressures and risks linked to smartphone use at primary age, including online safety, social pressures, sleep disruption and the impact on learning.

As Headteacher, my priorities are learning, behaviour and wellbeing. There are increasing concerns – locally and nationally – that smartphones can be detrimental to all three. Children and young people's use of smartphones is now considered by many professionals to be a safeguarding issue. To protect them and support their wellbeing, we have decided, with the support of our governing body, to introduce a phased ban on smartphones in school. This approach is also in line with the action many other schools are taking.

- From September 2026, children in Year 5 (current Year 4 cohort) will not be permitted to bring smartphones onto the school site. Only non-data phones (capable of calls and SMS only) will be allowed, and must be handed in at the start of the school day, as children do currently.
- From September 2027, this restriction will be extended to both Year 5 and Year 6.

This approach gives families time to prepare, sets a clear direction that supports children's wellbeing, and helps reduce unnecessary pressures at this age. More details about permitted phones will be shared in due course.

Smartphone Free Childhood

STOKENCHURCH 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.



For parents exploring alternatives, [Smartphone Free Childhood offers a guide](#) to simple handsets that make calls and send texts, but have no internet or apps.

We would also encourage parents to:

- Watch this short video for parents: '[The Smartphone Dilemma and how to solve it](#)'
- Watch this video **with your child**: '[This made my kids stop begging for a phone](#)' – a child-friendly resource explaining why waiting for a smartphone can be a positive choice.
- Connect with other families by joining our school's [Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group](#).
- Sign the [Parent Pact](#) to delay giving your child a smartphone, helping reduce peer pressure.

We will continue to promote safe and responsible use of technology through our curriculum, as well as offering information and resources for parents who want guidance on screentime and digital wellbeing. These are regularly shared via the 'Safeguarding slot' in our weekly newsletter and can be found on [our website](#). Thank you again for your support on this important issue. Together, we can give children time and space to enjoy a childhood that's a little less digital and more connected to the world around them.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Stevens
Headteacher

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