

**RBWM Smartphone Free Schools Consortium
with RBWM Smartphone Free Childhood**

4 July 2025

Re: Reducing Smartphone Use for Children in RBWM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to you as a group of schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

This letter explains that children will not be allowed access to smartphones at our schools by the end of 2025. Smartphones will either not be allowed on site - as is already the case today in many infant, first and primary schools and in some middle and secondary schools - or they will become inaccessible during the school day and on school trips. Each school will be responsible for how this will be implemented and will update you accordingly. In some schools, this is a continuation of policies that are already in place.

It is anticipated that some schools will adopt a phased approach - with policies becoming further strengthened over time. For example, middle and secondary schools may implement a full smartphone ban for new entrants to Year 5 and Year 7 whilst simply making smartphones inaccessible during the school day for existing pupils. Over time it will become unnecessary for a child at a school in RBWM to have a smartphone.

In addition, and if you haven't already done so, we are recommending parents **delay giving their child a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9, and to avoid allowing them access to social media until they are at least 16.**

Why have we made this decision?

Whilst smartphones can be a helpful piece of technology for adults, there is increasing evidence that smartphone use has negative effects on the wellbeing and mental health of young people, and poses a number of significant safeguarding risks. Smartphone use has been linked to impaired attention and focus, sleep deprivation, mental health issues, online bullying, exposure to harmful online content and people, increased risk of mugging and increased loneliness and social isolation.

We want young people to prioritise in-person interactions and to benefit from the stronger social skills, empathy and sense of community that real-world contact offers.

We believe that removing access to smartphones in schools is an important place to start - and schools that have already taken action to remove access to smartphones have seen a big positive impact. But today, the majority of child smartphone usage occurs outside of schools - and that is why we are also recommending that you delay giving your child access. Working together as schools and parents, we have the best chance of enabling children in our borough to benefit from a healthier childhood in the real world.

If you feel your child needs a device for safety reasons, such as when travelling to school, consider instead a phone without internet connectivity (a ‘brick’ phone).

We know that many parents are keen to avoid having to give their children a smartphone at 11, 12 or 13 - but that it is hard to say ‘no’ when everyone else has one. We hope that the position we are adopting as schools will help reset expectations and remove social peer pressure around smartphones, supporting parents to make informed decisions for their children.

What’s next?

Your child’s school will be in touch with you to share their updated smartphone policy with you, if they haven’t already done so. We hope that you will support us in our aim to make sure that RBWM’s children feel happy, healthy and free to enjoy childhood for as long as possible.

Signed by:

All Saints CE Junior School	Holyport CofE Primary School & Foundation Unit
Altwood Church of England School	Homer First School and Nursery
Alwyn Infant School	Kings Court First School
Beech Lodge	Lowbrook Academy
Boyne Hill CE Infant & Nursery School	Manor Green School and The Link
Braywick Court School	Newlands Girls’ School
Braywood CofE First School	Oakfield First School
Burchetts Green CE Infant School	Riverside Primary School and Nursery
Charters School	South Ascot Village School
Churchmead CofE School	St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School
Claire’s Court Juniors	St Edward’s Catholic First School, Windsor
Claire’s Court Seniors	St Francis Catholic Primary School, Ascot
Clewer Green CofE First School	St Luke’s CofE Primary School
Cookham Dean CofE Primary School	St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
Cookham Rise Primary School	St Michael’s CofE Primary School, Sunninghill
Courthouse Junior School	St Peter’s Church of England Middle School
Cox Green School	St Piran’s
Dedworth Green First School	The King’s House School
Eton Porny CofE First School	The Queen Anne Royal Free CofE First School
Eton Wick CofE First School	The Royal School
Furze Platt Primary Federation	The Windsor Boys’ School
Furze Platt Senior School	Trinity St Stephen CofE First School
Herries Prep School	Waltham St Lawrence Primary School
Hilltop First School	Wessex Primary School
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Cookham	Windsor Girls’ School
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Sunningdale	Wraysbury Primary School

For more information and resources please visit:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

<https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>

<https://healthprofessionalsforsaferscreens.org/>