



Trinity St Mary's C of E
Kindness, Unity and Courage

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Head Lynn Anderson

Deputy head Chloe Keys

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Smartphone Policy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share an important update regarding the school's policy on smartphones. This is a topic we have considered deeply, and one we know is a priority for many of you as well.

From 1st September 2026, TSM will become a smartphone free school for all pupils. This means that smartphones will not be permitted on school grounds for any year group.

The decision has been made to bring our school in line with government guidance and schools within the local authority. Whilst these devices are valuable tools for adults, an increasing body of research highlights the negative impact of smartphones and social media on children's health, wellbeing and the risks of exposure to harmful content.

School leaders and governors believe this policy will help delay access to these risks and significantly enhance pupil safety. This shift is not simply about restriction; it is about protecting the environment our children need to thrive – a space where focus, creativity, and real-world connections come first.

You may also read the government's proposals to introduce a legal ban on smartphone in schools. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y7vd6gpq1o>

Supporting Independence in Year 6

We understand that parent's value being able to contact their children, particularly as they begin to walk to and from school independently. As TSM. Year 6 pupils may be permitted to travel independently with written parental consent.

To provide peace of mind, without compromising safety, simple "brick phones" or basic text-and-call devices are effective alternatives for communicating with your child. If you wish for your child to have a phone for safety reasons, you may wish to consider the options listed here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>

Procedures and Expectations

- ✚ **Year 6 Expectation:** Pupils, with permission to walk independently, may bring a non-smart mobile phone to school. Smartphones will not be permitted.
- ✚ **Storage:** As per current practice, any pupils bringing mobile phones to school (non-smart phones from 1st September 2026) must hand them in at the office, turned off. They will be returned at the end of the day.
- ✚ **Phones are NOT permitted on school trips.**
- ✚ **Smartwatches:** Please note that smartwatches are also **not** permitted.

- ✚ **Confiscation:** If a child is found with a smartphone or smartwatch on the school premises, the device will be confiscated. Parents & Carers will be required to collect the device from the school office, from a member of the senior leadership team.
- ✚ **Next Steps:** To support our pupils through this transition, we will be holding sessions in Years 5 & 6 regarding screen time and digital wellbeing.

For further information you may find the following websites helpful:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resources-for-parents>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/smartphones-dumb-phones-guide/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

If you would like to sign the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact, to join other parents at TSM who wish to delay giving their child a smartphone, you can do so [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Lynn Anderson
Headteacher