



16th June 2026

Dear Families,

Smartphone Policy

Since September 2025, our school has been *smartphone-free* for all children. That means no smartphones on school grounds – for any year group. This decision wasn't about banning or restricting; it was introduced to help create the kind of space we believe our children thrive in. A place where focus, creativity, friendships and real connection come first.

We've all been put in an impossible position, including families, schools – and children themselves – when it comes to smartphones. The pressure to hand one over seems to come earlier and earlier, but the truth is, so many of us feel uneasy about it. We want to let you know: if you've ever felt that tug in your gut – the "is this too soon?" feeling – you're not alone. You're in good company.

That's why we are supporting a growing grassroots movement called [Smartphone Free Childhood](#). It's not a top-down campaign. It's a bottom-up one, driven by families, carers, teachers, and kids – all trying to figure this out together. It's about creating healthier childhoods, and giving kids the chance to learn, grow and thrive, free from the pull of addictive algorithms and 24/7 internet in their pockets.

What has changed at Riverview CofE Primary and Nursery School:

- Smartphones will not be allowed on school grounds for any children.
- Children who travel to or from school independently may bring a simple, non-smart mobile (just calls/texts), with permission. These must be handed into the School Office staff on arrival, where they will be locked away, and collected at the end of the day.
- Smart watches will also not be permitted.
- If there are exceptional circumstances that require your child to bring a smartphone into school each day, for example if it is used as a medical device, you will need to contact the School Office for a request form.

Riverview exists to love, challenge and inspire children and adults within a Christian community

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Smartphone Free Childhood has some great suggestions for alternative phones which can be found here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>.

Want to connect with other families?

You can find out more and join the local Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group [here](#), and if you'd like to sign the Parent Pact to delay giving your child a smartphone, you can do that [here](#). This isn't about judgement – it's about finding strength in numbers, and knowing you're not the only one swimming against the tide.

Thank you for helping us create a school environment where our kids can stay kids just a little bit longer.

With thanks,

Mrs Mercy Atkins

Executive Head Teacher, Riverview CofE Primary and Nursery School