

21st July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a group of local schools, we are growing increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on our children.

Why are we concerned?

We fully appreciate that smartphones are a big part of life today. However, there is now a truly compelling amount of evidence and research into the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers.

These include:

- Poor mental health, such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem;
- Issues with cyberbullying, attention, focus and sleep;
- Exposure to dangerous and harmful content and inappropriate material;
- Smartphones are HIGHLY addictive so time spent on devices can significantly reduce the time spent playing, interacting and developing vital social skills;

Children often get their first phone in primary school and over 90% of 12-year-olds now have a smartphone. The same period in their young lives is crucial for brain development, and the younger a child gets a smartphone, the more harm it can therefore cause.

Who is making changes?

Schools are in a powerful position to change the norm, and support parents on this difficult issue. That's why Hampshire primary schools are now coming together to take collective action, and commit to making Hampshire primary schools genuinely smartphone free by January 2026.

We are committed to ensuring Hordle CE Primary School is smartphone free by January 2026, and are therefore emphasising that we do not want primary school children to bring a smartphone to school after this date.

We do understand the value of a phone for Y5/6 children who walk to and from school unaccompanied. However, we are confident that a smart phone is not necessary for this and a simple text / call type phone (brick phone), with no access to social platforms, offers this same level of security.

What does this mean for children at Hordle CE Primary School?

Many schools across Hampshire are insisting that smartphones are banned from 1st September 2025. However, we are mindful that families will need time to make suitable arrangements and we will therefore be introducing a ban on smartphones from 1st January 2026. The school office will continue to safely store any basic, non-internet enabled mobile phones throughout the day, for collection at the end of the day. But, from 1st January, please DO NOT send your child in with a smartphone.

We would urge you to take the time to watch the following clips which help explain the reasoning behind our decision to become Smartphone Free:

"Stolen Childhood". A compelling film that sums up the problem in 12 minutes - great for those who may not yet be fully convinced <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zhfd0jW7iY>

"The Smartphone Dilemma" Here is an amazing resource we've just published by an ex Facebook employee, to help educate parents on SmartFree Phone Childhood!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFsiYAsqx7U>

We would like to work together with parents/carers to safeguard children and preserve childhood. If all schools join together to implement this change, it is hoped that we can help parents/carers avoid the pressure to buy their child a smartphone too early. By doing so, we can not only protect our children's mental health and wellbeing, but we can also set a standard for how communities can come together to challenge the norms that no longer serve our children.

If you would like to find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone free, do please visit Smartphone Free Childhood. Here you can sign the Parent pact.

Yours sincerely,



Lou Trim
Headteacher

Please see overleaf for a list of schools already signed up to be Smartphone Free

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'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' John 10:10



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Schools already signed up to be Smartphone Free

1. Amport CE (Aided) Primary School
2. Alton Infant School, Alton
3. Andover C of E Primary, Andover
4. Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School, Holybourne
5. Anstey Junior School, Alton
6. Anton Junior School, Andover
7. Appleshaw St Peter's CE Primary, Andover
8. Balksbury School, Andover
9. Beaulieu Village Primary School, New Forest
10. Bentley CE Primary School, Alton
11. Berewood Primary School, Waterlooville
12. Binsted CE Primary School, Binsted
13. Bishop's Waltham Infant School, Bishop's Waltham
14. Bishop's Waltham Junior School, Bishop's Waltham
15. Blackfield Primary and Nursery School, Southampton
16. Boorley Park Primary School, Southampton
17. Botley C of E Primary School, Southampton
18. Breamore CE Primary School, Fordingbridge
19. Brockhurst Primary School, Gosport
20. Buriton Primary School, Petersfield
21. Bursledon Schools Federation, Southampton
22. Buryfields Infant School, Hook
23. Calmore Infant school, Southampton
24. Calmore Junior school, Southampton
25. Castle Hill Primary School, Basingstoke
26. Chalk Ridge Primary School, Basingstoke
27. Chawton CE Primary School, Chawton
28. Cheriton Primary School, Cheriton
29. Church Crookham Junior School, Fleet
30. Compton C of E Primary School, Winchester
31. Cornerstone Church of England Primary School, Whiteley
32. Cove Infant School, Farnborough
33. Cranford Park Primary School, Yateley
34. Curdridge Primary School, Southampton
35. Dogmersfield CE Primary School, Hook
36. East Meon Primary School, East Meon
37. Elvetham Heath Primary School, Fleet
38. Endeavour School, Andover
39. Fleet Infant School, Fleet
40. Frogmore Infant School, Camberley
41. Froxfield Primary School, Petersfield
42. Grateley Primary School, Andover
43. Green Oaks Federation, Hartley Wintney
44. Hale Primary School, Fordingbridge
45. Hambledon Primary School, Waterlooville
46. Heatherside Junior School, Fleet
47. Hook Junior School, Hook
48. Hook Infant School, Hook
49. Hurstbourne Tarrant School, Andover
50. Hyde CE Primary School, Fordingbridge
51. Icknield Primary School, Andover
52. Itchen Abbas Primary School, Winchester
53. Kimpton, Thruxton & Fyfield CE Primary, Andover
54. Kings Furlong Junior School, Basingstoke
55. Knights Enham Junior School, Andover
56. Langrish Primary School, Petersfield
57. Longparish Primary School, Andover
58. Mayhill Junior School, Hook
59. Meonstoke Infants, Southampton
60. Milford on Sea CE Primary School, Lymington
61. Netley Abbey Infant School, Southampton

62. Netley Abbey Junior School, Southampton
63. Newton Soberton Infants, Fareham
64. Norman Gate Primary School, Andover
65. Norwood Primary and Pre-School, Eastleigh
66. North Farnborough Infant School, Farnborough
67. Orchard Junior School, New Forest
68. Parsonage Farm Nursery and Infant School, Farnborough
69. Padnell Infants School, Waterlooville
70. Petersfield Infant School, Petersfield
71. Petersgate Infant School, Waterlooville
72. Pilgrims' Cross CE Primary School, Andover
73. Portway Infant School, Andover
74. Portway Junior School, Andover
75. Queen's Inclosure Primary School, Waterlooville
76. Roman Way Primary School, Andover
77. Romsey Primary School, Romsey
78. Rowledge C of E Primary School, Rowledge, Farnham
79. Saint James Church of England Primary School, Southampton
80. Selborne Primary School, Alton
81. Sarisbury C of E Junior School, Sarisbury Green
82. Scantabout Primary School, Eastleigh
83. Sheet Primary School, Petersfield
84. South Baddesley Primary School, Lymington
85. South Farnborough Infant School, Farnborough
86. South Farnborough Junior School, Farnborough
87. Southwood Infant School, Farnborough
88. Sparsholt C of E Primary School, Winchester
89. St Bede CofE Primary School, Winchester
90. St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Farnborough
91. St. Faith's C of E Primary School, Winchester
92. St John the Baptist School, Andover
93. St Jude's Catholic Primary School, Fareham
94. St. Lawrence CE Primary School, Alton
95. St Luke's CE Primary School, Lymington
96. St. Mark's C of E Primary School, Basingstoke
97. St. Mary's Bentworth CE Primary School, Alton
98. St. Michael's Church of England Infant School, Aldershot
99. St Nicholas' School, Fleet
100. Stockbridge Primary School, Stockbridge
101. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Farnborough
102. Steep Primary School, Binsted
103. Tadley Primary School, Tadley
104. Talavera Infant School, Aldershot
105. Tavistock Infant School, Fleet
106. The Cambridge Primary School, Aldershot
107. The Mark Way School, Andover
108. Tweseldown Infant School, Fleet
109. Velmead Junior School, Fleet
110. Vernham Dean Gillum's CE Primary, Andover
111. Wallop Primary School, Andover
112. Vigo Primary School, Andover
113. Weeke Primary School, Winchester
114. Wellstead Primary School, Southampton
115. Western CE Primary School, Winchester
116. The Westgate School (Primary Phase)
117. Wootey Infant School, Alton