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Thursday 4th September 2025

Smartphone Policy

Dear families,

We wanted to share something important with you – something we've been thinking hard about as a school, and something we know many of you are thinking about too.

From September 2023, our school has implemented a policy to make Green Park *smartphone-free* for all children. That means no smartphones on school grounds – for any year group. This isn't about banning or restricting; it's about creating 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're 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.

Whilst many parents say to the school 'My child won't use their phone on school grounds', experience has told us that they will. Having collected the phone from the school office in previous years, children are simply unable to resist the draw of the smartphone. Before we know it, they are taking

pictures and posting them online. This represents a serious risk to our other children.

So what's changing at Green Park?

Over the last 2 years, we have introduced the following rules:

- Smartphones are not allowed on school grounds for any children.
- Y6 Children who travel to or from school independently may bring a simple, non-smart mobile (just calls/texts), with permission. These must be handed to the class teacher on arrival and collected at the end of the day.
- 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, please speak with the school.

If you are struggling financially to provide a different phone, Nokia 105 and 106 phones are available for less than £20. Please speak to the school if you need help with this.

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.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Hawkins
Head Teacher