

High View Primary School

Opportunities to Thrive



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Banning Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones at High View

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important change to our school's approach regarding pupil's use of mobile phones, which will come into effect from September 2026.

Over time, we have become increasingly concerned about the impact of mobile phone use on our pupils' safety, wellbeing, and behaviour. A significant number of children are seen walking to and from school with limited awareness of their surroundings, often using their phones while crossing roads or navigating busy streets. Additionally, many pupils are arriving at school earlier than necessary and gathering outside the gates, where they spend time watching online content such as short-form videos. This pattern frequently continues after school. This does not support the development of healthy habits around the use of technology.

Within school, we have also managed a number of behavioural issues linked to mobile phone use, particularly conflicts arising through social media platforms such as WhatsApp. These issues often affect friendships, classroom relationships, and children's emotional wellbeing.

We have heard from some parents—both current and past—many of whom have expressed regret about giving their child a smartphone at a young age. In many cases, this decision was influenced more by peer pressure than genuine need. Some families have shared concerns about children being exposed to wider social circles online, leading to anxiety and, in some cases, a breakdown in the parent-child relationship.

In addition, we regularly deal with practical issues such as lost or damaged phones. Staff are also being placed in the unreasonable position of safeguarding expensive devices throughout the school day, which is not sustainable.

For all of these reasons, **we have made the decision to ban smartphones on the school site from September 2026**. This change will particularly affect pupils in Years 5 and 6 who, with parental permission, are allowed to go home alone after school. For this reason, we recognise that some children need a way to communicate with parents when travelling to and from school. Therefore, pupils, who travel to and from school alone in Years 5 and 6, will be permitted to bring a basic mobile phone that:



- Is not a smartphone
- Does not have access to the internet
- Cannot access social media or apps

These devices will be collected and stored safely by the class teacher during the school day. Please note that any phone brought into school is done so at the child's own risk, and we require explicit parental consent for this arrangement.

Alongside this policy, we will continue to actively teach children about online safety and responsible device use. Our aim is to equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding, and skills they need to use internet-enabled technology safely and sensibly as they move on to secondary school and beyond.

We believe this change will significantly improve pupils' safety, support their wellbeing, and promote healthier relationships with technology.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Claxton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr R Claxton
Headteacher