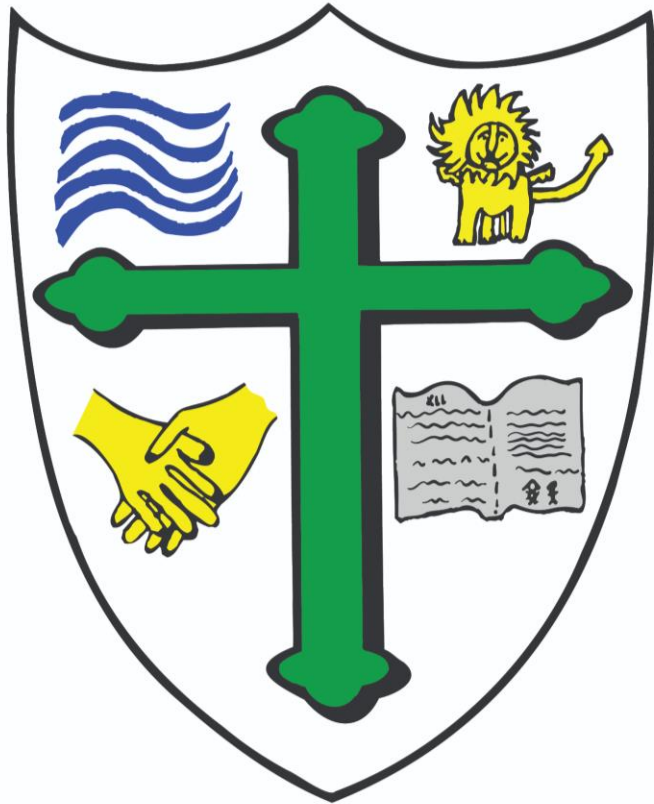




**INTRODUCING
OUR
SMARTPHONE-
FREE SCHOOL**

SMARTPHONE-FREE FROM SEPTEMBER



Smartphone Policy Introduction

From **September 2026**, Highcliffe St Mark Primary School will become Smartphone-free to support learning, wellbeing, and social development.

Age-Appropriate Rules

This introduction adapts our current policy and specifically focuses on a change for Years 5 and 6.

Benefits for Children

Removing Smartphones reduces peer pressure and anxiety, promoting safe, focused learning environments.

Positive Message and Collaboration

The policy values children for who they are, encouraging healthy technology habits in partnership with parents.

WHAT THE POLICY MEANS IN PRACTICE



Clear Smartphone Restrictions

Smartphones and internet-enabled devices are already strictly controlled on school grounds during the school day to prevent distractions. **However, our new policy means they cannot be brought onto the school site at all.**

Exceptions for Basic Phones

Basic phones with call and text functions may be allowed for older pupils with school approval, excluding internet or camera features.

Policy Enforcement Procedures

Accidentally brought Smartphones will be securely stored and returned to parents, reinforcing the policy fairly and consistently.

Supportive Communication

Staff will explain the policy in child-friendly terms to encourage understanding and cooperation among pupils and parents.

WHY WE ARE MAKING THIS CHANGE



Enhancing Wellbeing and Focus

Evidence exists that removing Smartphones improves children's concentration, sleep and emotional health by reducing digital distractions in class.

Supporting Social Development

Face-to-face interaction helps pupils build social skills, confidence and resilience through age-appropriate play and communication.

Ensuring Safety and Protection

Smartphone-free policy reduces exposure to inappropriate content and online pressures, safeguarding children at school.

Balancing Technology Use

Encouraging a healthy balance where technology is used purposefully without dominating children's daily lives.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS



Clear Boundaries at School

Clear Smartphone rules at school create a safe, focused learning environment for children and supports parents to push back when their child asks them to buy a smartphone.

Parental Support and Communication

Parents can support the policy by discussing it positively at home and ensuring devices stay out of school. **We also want to encourage and ask parents to respect our Smartphone free school and not use their phone during drop off and pick up times.**

Consistent Messaging for Independence

Clear, consistent messages and good role model behaviour from school staff and parents help children feel secure as they seek independence.

Shared Goals for Child Wellbeing

Working together, parents and school can foster healthy technology habits and confident, supported children.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT