



**Weston CofE (VC) Primary & Nursery
School**

A Community, Learning and Growing

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Dear parents and carers

As you may have seen in media coverage over recent months, there is a growing movement across the country among some parents to support a campaign called 'Smartphone-Free Childhood'.

This campaign promotes the idea that children should not have a smartphone before the age of 14, and that this will bring benefits to children by ensuring they are not able to access the internet with their mobile phone. The campaign also suggests that older primary school children whose parents may want them to have a mobile phone (for example, because they are walking home alone), are better off getting a 'non-smartphone' which can text and call, but which cannot access the internet.

If you are interested, you can find out further information using the following links;

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#) [alternatives — Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

Personally, I feel there is a lot of sense in the idea of a "Smartphone-Free Childhood" while children are at Primary School (and it may even save parents some money). However, this is clearly a matter for parents to decide for their individual children.

At Weston, children who bring a mobile phone (or smart watch) to school have to switch it off and then hand it in to staff on arrival, to be kept until they leave at the end of the day. Children are not given access to their device at all during the school day and are discouraged from using the phone on site at either end of the day.

The particular challenge with smartphones is that children who have them may be accessing all types of online content, without the same supervision/filters/parental controls that they have when going online with other devices. This can mean that they are exposed to negative content online, and this can affect their wellbeing and development.

Children who bring any kind of mobile phone (or smart watch) to school will continue to have to hand it in at the start of the day. If you have not already bought your child a smartphone, I hope that you might find the information available via the links above helpful in deciding whether to do so.

Regards

G. Holmes
Head Teacher