



9th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Personal Smart Phones

Since September 2024, children have not been permitted to bring smart phones or wear smart watches to school. This decision was made in response to a growing number of issues linked to inappropriate use of social media and access to unsuitable content via apps on smart phones - situations that were often distressing for those involved.

I'm pleased to report that these incidents have reduced, but I'm under no illusion that the problem has disappeared entirely. **We must continue working together to ensure our policy remains effective.** Towards the end of 2025, we reviewed and updated our policy, and I'd like to share some key points with you:

- We have invested significant time educating children about these issues as part of our curriculum. However, managing individual cases was consuming increasing amounts of school time. Your continued support at home is essential to reinforce these messages. Many apps commonly used by children are not suitable for primary school age, and most children are not mature enough to handle the consequences responsibly.
- **We strongly discourage primary-aged children from having any type of mobile phone.** In exceptional circumstances, Year 6 pupils who walk home alone may bring a basic phone - one that only makes calls and sends texts (such as older Nokia or Motorola models). These cost around £20, a fraction of the price of a smart phone, and still allow children to be contactable. Please note: these phones must remain switched off and unused while on school premises. Should a Year 6 child bring a basic phone into school then they must hand this to their class teacher every morning.
- To safeguard our pupils effectively, smart phones are not permitted in school unless there is a specific medical need (e.g., diabetes management).

We respect that parents have the right to decide when their child receives a smart phone. However, research increasingly shows that early smart phone use can negatively impact children's mental and physical health. Current recommendations suggest waiting until Year 9. You may recall from Bulletin 4 that Australia recently raised the minimum age for social media use to 16 and deactivated underage accounts - a landmark move to protect young people from platforms that exploit their wellbeing.

This step won't solve everything, but it gives children crucial extra years free from addictive, profit-driven platforms and demonstrates that Big Tech is not above the law. It may prove to be one of the most significant public health measures of our time. If you'd like to learn more or join the movement, [click here](#) to sign up for **Smart Phone Free Childhood** and help protect the pupils of Round Hill.

Please remember: apps such as WhatsApp, TikTok, and Snapchat have age restrictions in their terms of service to safeguard children. At Round Hill, pupils are not allowed to have WhatsApp accounts or join WhatsApp groups. Any breaches will be reported to the platform, and accounts will be closed.

We hope parents and carers will see the benefits of this approach and work together as a community to reduce the negative effects of smart device overuse among younger children.

Yours faithfully

Adrian Nash

Head Teacher

Reflecting

Daring

Persevering

Dreaming

Together

