



7 July 2022

Dear parents

Over the past few months we have been in consultation with our parents, staff and governors regarding our policy on smart phones in school. This consultation was driven by a rise in the number of primary age children nationally, and at Avonwood, suffering from friendship issues and safeguarding concerns linked to smart phones.

We would like to thank everyone involved for their input to this important consultation, with many interesting and diverse opinions on the topic.

Having reviewed all responses, the majority of parents, staff and governors were in favour of a ban of smart phones on site. A small number of parents raised good points regarding the positive use of fitness trackers, so these will be exempt from the ban but must not have cellular capabilities activated during the school day.

Having reflected on our initial proposal, the following updated guidance has been approved by governors and will be in place from 1st September 2022:

From 1st September 2022, smart phones are not permitted in school. The only device children are permitted to bring into school is an old-fashioned mobile with the capacity for phone calls / text messages only; it must not be a smart phone. Smart watches may be worn to school but must have cellular capability de-activated when on site.

All phones will continue to be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day, switched off, and returned at the end of the day. Should a smart phone come into school, we will retain the device until the parent is able to collect this from our front office.

If there are exceptional circumstances where you feel it is essential your child brings a smart phone to school, you can apply for approval from the Headteacher via a form that can be collected from our front office.

A reminder that a cheap but appropriate non-smart phone can be purchased from most retailers for £20 or less. You will find an example from Amazon for £17 below:

[Nokia 105 \(4th Edition\) 1.77 Inch UK SIM Free Feature Phone \(Single SIM\) – Black: Amazon.co.uk: Electronics & Photo](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B089383838)

Thank you to everyone that inputted to this important consultation.

Kind regards

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