June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Shared Commitment to Smartphone-Free Childhood

We are pleased to take a collective approach to ensure pupils enjoy their childhood, in and outside of school, free from unnecessary digital pressures.

As Headteachers we share a commitment to our pupils' happiness, mental health and academic achievement, maintaining a phone-free environment during the school day. Many parents/carers will also be aware that, from September, students joining Ashlyns School in Year 7 will not be permitted to bring a smartphone onto the school site - students may bring a basic feature, non-smart phone which will be stored in the school's phone pouch system during the day.

Locally, all of the primary schools have developed policies relating to mobile phones and discourage smart phones being brought into school. If children bring a phone into school, in Year 5 or 6, the phone is handed in at the start of the school day.

We encourage all parents and carers to delay giving children a smartphone, opting for a text/call phone alternative if necessary. Please contact your school if you would like guidance on alternative phone options. In acting as a community, we aim to empower and support parents and carers in making decisions about their children's use of technology.

Our commitment reflects the growing body of national and international research, which highlights the detrimental impact of smartphones, messaging platforms and social media on young people's wellbeing and safety. While smartphones can offer convenience, the damage to mental and physical health, sleep, social skills and cognition are increasingly clear.

You may have seen in the media that the government is taking wider action to improve children's relationship with technology and social media and has launched a consultation as part of a national conversation. We encourage families to contribute their views.

We are committed to working together to support your children's happiness and success. Please contact your school if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Head teachers and Chair of Governors from our local schools