



Naunton Park Primary School

Smartphone Free School Policy

September 2026

Rationale

At Naunton Park Primary School, the safety, wellbeing and healthy development of our children is at the heart of every decision we make.

From September 2026, we will become a Smartphone Free School.

Historically, only Year 6 children have been permitted to bring a mobile phone to school where parents feel it is necessary for their journey to and from school. From September, this will change. We ask that children do not bring smartphones onto the school site.

Children who require a phone for travelling independently should instead bring a basic mobile phone (often referred to as a “brick phone”) which allows calls and text messages but does not provide access to the internet, social media or apps.

Why are we making this change?

Over recent years there has been growing national concern regarding the impact of smartphones and social media on children’s wellbeing, mental health, concentration, sleep, relationships and online safety.

As a school we believe that primary-aged children should have the opportunity to:

- enjoy childhood free from the pressures of social media;
- build positive friendships through face-to-face interaction;
- develop healthy habits around technology;
- remain fully engaged in learning throughout the school day; and
- be protected from unnecessary online risks.

This decision aligns with our commitment to safeguarding, our Brain Matters curriculum, and our work to support children's emotional wellbeing and healthy brain development.

Naunton Park Primary School is joining many other schools across Cheltenham in adopting a smartphone-free approach, recognising the growing evidence that delaying access to smartphones can have significant benefits for children.

Arrangements

Children who need a phone for travelling to and from school may bring a basic mobile ("brick") phone.

The following arrangements will remain in place:

- Phones must be switched off before entering the school site.
- Phones must be handed into the school office immediately on arrival each morning. A monitor will collect them and take them to the office.
- Phones will be stored securely in a locked cupboard throughout the school day.
- Phones will be returned to children at the end of the school day before they leave the site.
- Phones must not be used anywhere on the school premises.

Smartphones, including devices capable of internet access, social media, gaming or apps, should not be brought into school.

Working in Partnership with Parents

We recognise that parents make decisions about technology at different times and for different reasons. This policy is not intended to tell families when their child should own a smartphone.

However, we hope that by creating a smartphone-free environment during the primary years, we can work together to give our children the very best start, allowing them to develop confidence, resilience, friendships and healthy habits before entering secondary school.

We greatly appreciate the support of our families as we continue to place children's wellbeing and safety at the centre of everything we do.

Together We Can.