

Dear parents,

Social Media and Smart Phones

Helping children be safe online, to report issues and to behave kindly online is a joint responsibility between parents and school. Supervising this outside of school hours is a parental responsibility.

We will not deal with behaviour issues that arise between pupils on apps such as WhatsApp and Snapchat where parents have chosen to ignore the age ratings and allow their children to access them. Parents need to deal with these issues themselves. Any issues between parents that are brought into school will be managed by The Parent Code of Conduct. Issues that begin on social media must not be allowed to spread into school and cause issues between children and/or parents/carers.

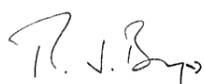
We will continue to support children who have been affected by something they have seen online. Your children's welfare and mental wellbeing will always be a priority to us and their individual needs will always be supported.

Smartphones

To safeguard our pupils BDMAT schools will be banning Smart phones in all our primary schools from September 2025.

Children will still be able to bring in a dumb phone / non smart phone that allows texting and calls if parents are concerned about them travelling to and from school unaccompanied. However, in line with moves nationally and internationally we want to help you as parents and carers to protect our children from some of the growing harm that the digital world is bringing to childhood.

Your sincerely



Mr T Boyes CEO



As a Multi Academy Trust we want to encourage everyone to **PAUSE** and think about the impact of giving smart phones to young people, because:

- **P: Prevents Real Social Interaction** – Smartphone use can stop children from socialising and engaging in imaginative or positive interactions
- **A: Attention Span** – Smartphones reduce focus and attention, hindering learning
- **U: Undermines Mental Health** – Overexposure to social media and screens can negatively affect children's emotional and mental well-being.
- **S: Safety Risks** – Smartphones expose children to safeguarding issues, including cyberbullying, grooming and inappropriate content.
- **E: Emotional Impact** – The addictive nature of smartphones can lead to mood swings, sleep disruption, and over-reliance on digital validation.

There are several parent-led organisations that advocate collective action on this issue.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

<https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>

<https://www.papayaparents.com/>

