



## Wallace Fields Junior School

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### Smartphone Ban 2024

19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Year 4 & 5 Parents/Carers

As you know smartphones are banned in our school from September 2024. This ban comes with the full approval of the school governors and many of our governors are in primary and secondary education. Smartphones present a safeguarding threat to children, they are high value items and children are assaulted/robbed for their phones to or from school. They are a fashion accessory (this defeats the levelling aspect of school uniform etc.) and the misnomer that children are safer with a phone is prevalent. In addition to this we are left sorting out issues that have occurred due to inappropriate use of phones and whilst the children are protected in terms of bullying and our anti bullying strategies, children with smartphones is having a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of our young children. The campaign [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) has a vast amount of information on the damage unrestricted access is having on children.

Despite this warning, there is a growing anticipation and expectation amongst the year 5 that they are getting phones to bring to school in September. For this reason I would like to reinforce the message that;

- All smartphones are banned from September 2024
- Mobile phones are not welcome at Wallace Fields Juniors. Children are no safer with a mobile phone, in fact they are in more danger than with a phone. If you do insist that your child has a mobile phone then parents and pupils must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy and complete the attached Google form to give permission to bring mobile phones to school. [Click here](#) to complete the Google Form.
- Feature Phones / dumb phones only – and they must be clearly labelled with the owners name. Any unnamed phones will be confiscated.
- Adapted smartphones are banned – phones where certain criteria/access are turned off or blocked are also banned – as staff cannot spend time checking and selecting certain phones – no smartphones!
- Phones must be handed in to the School Office/teacher at the beginning of the school day and collected at the end.
- Any phones found in bags (they may go off and as a safeguarding issue this allows for bag searches) or on their person will be confiscated.
- Only parents may collect confiscated phones from the office.
- Phones are not allowed to be used on the school site and must be turned off before they come onto school grounds.
- The school accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of any phones brought into school.
- No smart watches are permitted in the school.

It appears the message is not getting through and so teachers have spent some time this week reinforcing this message to avoid disappointment in the future.

Kindest regards

Steve Lee

**Head Teacher**

**Wallace Fields Junior School**

**Brilliance, Equality, Learning for all, Inspirational, Enthusiasm, Vision. Every pupil matters**

