

**Re: Smartphone policy across schools  
in Chesham, Amersham, Great Missenden, The Chalfonts, Gerrards Cross and Denham**

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

We are writing to you as a group of schools across Chesham, Amersham, Great Missenden, The Chalfonts, Gerrards Cross and Denham to explain a shared approach to smartphone use.

**Our policy from next year**

- **Primary schools**

Primary school children will not be allowed to bring **smartphones or smart watches onto school premises**.

- **Secondary schools**

From **September 2026, new cohorts of pupils entering Year 7** at the secondary schools listed below will **not be permitted to bring smartphones or smart watches onto school premises**. They will be allowed to bring a simple non-internet enabled phone.

The intent is that this policy will apply **throughout their time in Years 7–11** so that over time smartphones will be phased out of secondary schools before Year 12.

Schools will apply this policy with sensitivity, making appropriate individual exceptions where a device is required for medical or health needs, such as type 1 diabetes.

Each school will be responsible for implementing this policy and will communicate practical arrangements directly with parents. For some schools, this policy reflects or builds on existing practice.

**Why are we taking this step?**

While smartphones can be useful tools for adults, there is increasing evidence that early smartphone use can negatively affect children's wellbeing and mental health, and introduce significant safeguarding risks. These include impaired attention and concentration, sleep disruption, anxiety and depression, online bullying, exposure to harmful and content and dangerous individuals, and greater social isolation.

We want children and young people to prioritise **learning, friendships and in-person social interaction**, and to benefit from the stronger social skills, empathy and sense of belonging that come from real-world connection.

Schools that have already removed smartphones report calmer learning environments, improved focus and fewer safeguarding incidents. However, much of children's smartphone use takes place outside school, which is why parental support is essential.

**Supporting families**

Alongside this policy, we encourage parents - if they have not already done so - to **delay giving children a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9**, and to **delay access to social media until age 16**.













If a child needs a device for safety reasons, such as travelling independently, we recommend a **basic phone without internet access**.

We know many parents would prefer to avoid giving smartphones to children aged 11–13 but feel under pressure to do so. A clear, consistent approach across schools helps reset expectations and supports families to make confident, informed decisions.

### What happens next?

Your child’s school will share further details of how this policy will operate locally. We hope you will support us as we work together to ensure children can grow up **happy, healthy and free to enjoy childhood for as long as possible**.

Signed by

6 Secondary Schools		
 <p>Amersham School, Amersham</p>	 <p>The Chalfonts Community College, Chalfont St Peter</p>	 <p>Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham</p>
 <p>Chesham Grammar School, Chesham</p>	 <p>The Misbourne School, Great Missenden</p>	 <p>Thorpe House School, Gerrards Cross</p>
39 Primary Schools		
 <p>Brushwood Junior School, Chesham</p>	 <p>Chalfont St. Giles Infant &amp; Nursery, Chalfont St Giles</p>	 <p>Chalfont St. Giles Junior School, Chalfont St Giles</p>
 <p>Chartridge Combined School, Chesham</p>	 <p>Chesham Bois Church of England School, Chesham Bois</p>	 <p>Chesham Preparatory School, Chesham</p>



Chestnut Lane School,  
Amersham



Coleshill CofE Infant School,  
Amersham



Curzon CofE Combined School,  
Amersham



Denham Village School,  
Denham Green



Elangeni School,  
Amersham



Elmtree Infant and Nursery School,  
Chesham



GATEWAY SCHOOL  
— GREAT MISSENDEN —

Gateway School,  
Great Missenden



Gayhurst School,  
Gerrards Cross



Great Missenden CofE Combined School,  
Great Missenden



Hawridge and Cholesbury CofE School,  
Chesham



Heatherton School,  
Amersham



Hyde Heath Infant School,  
Hyde Heath



Ivingswood Academy,  
Chesham



Lee Common Church of England School,  
Lee Common



Ley Hill School,  
Chesham



Little Chalfont Primary School,  
Little Chalfont



Little Kingshill Combined School,  
Great Missenden



Little Missenden CofE School,  
Amersham



Maltman's Green School,  
Gerrards Cross



Newtown School,  
Chesham



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School,  
Amersham











PRESTWOOD  
VILLAGE SCHOOLS



PRESTWOOD  
VILLAGE SCHOOLS



ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY

Prestwood Infant School, Prestwood	Prestwood Junior School, Prestwood	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Gerrards Cross
		
St Mary's CofE Primary School, Amersham, Amersham	St Mary's School, Gerrards Cross, Gerrards Cross	St. George's CofE Infant School, Amersham
		
The Beacon School, Amersham	The Gerrards Cross CofE School, Gerrards Cross	Thomas Harding Junior School, Chesham
		
Thorpe House School, Gerrards Cross	Waterside Primary Academy, Chesham	Woodside Junior School, Amersham

**For more information and resources please visit:**

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

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

<https://healthprofessionalsforsaferscreens.org/>