



June 2025

A joint statement on smartphones by York headteachers

Dear Parents/Guardians

Working in education, the health, happiness and well-being of children is at the forefront of our minds.

As you may be aware, there is increasing evidence showing the potential harms of children owning smartphones. Across our city, we've seen a number of incidents requiring police involvement, including bullying, sharing adult content and grooming children through social media.

As headteachers, we are committed to promoting our schools as **smartphone free**. We are asking parents to delay giving their child a smartphone for the duration of primary school and beyond.

We understand the importance of being able to contact your child as they become more independent, walking to and from school. A basic brick phone, without internet access, can allow you to contact them via text or calling.

You may find these websites helpful; they include information on smartphone alternatives:

www.smartphonefreechildhood.org

www.delaysmartphones.org.uk

If your child already owns a smartphone, these websites contain useful information to help your child be safer online:

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.papayaparents.com

We believe that by joining together, we can reduce the pressure on parents to buy smartphones for their children. Thank you for your support in helping the children across our city to be safe, happy and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

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