



25th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Smartphone Free Childhood – an update

We are writing to you on behalf of the Hedge End cluster of primary schools to share an important update regarding the use of smartphones in our local schools.

You may shortly receive communication from Raise Education Trust (our local secondary schools), confirming that they will be introducing a **smartphone-free approach from September 2026**.

As a cluster of primary schools, we fully support this direction and have been working closely together on our own plans. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all Hedge End primary schools, will also be moving to a **smartphone-free approach from September 2026**.

This means that pupils will not be permitted to bring smartphones or similar internet-enabled devices to school or use them during the school day.

Our shared aim across both primary and secondary phases is to:

- Support children's mental health, wellbeing and healthy development
- Reduce distractions and promote focus on learning
- Protect children from the safeguarding risks associated with early smartphone and social media use

We recognise that this represents a cultural shift, and we are keen to work in partnership with families to support a gradual and positive transition over time.

Each individual school will share its **specific policy and arrangements during the Summer Term**, following governing body approval.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Hedge End Primary Heads Cluster