

ST AIDAN'S

Voluntary Controlled
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Albany Road
London N4 4RR

T: 020 8340 2352

F: 020 8341 2320

T (Nursery): 020 8341 6703

E: admin@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Kate Stevens



20th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to inform you of a change to school policy relating to mobile phones. This change will be reflected in the Home School Agreement from September.

The current Home School Agreement commits that pupils will not bring mobile phones into school. Our policy in practice is that when a child brings a phone to school it is left with the school office and collected at the end of the school day.

However, from the start of the Autumn term, 1st September 2025, we will no longer be permitting children to bring smartphones onto the premises of St Aidan's. If children are found bringing a smartphone onto school premises, it will be confiscated immediately. Parents will be required to attend a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to collect the phone and reset expectations.

While smartphones can be valuable tools for adults, an increasing body of research highlights the negative impact of smartphones and social media on children's mental health, as well as the potential exposure to harmful and dangerous content. Smartphones, which were never designed with children in mind, pose significant risks to their well-being and development. Consequently, these devices are often incompatible with ensuring child safety. For a longer read, many people in the education sector have found "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt to be challenging but insightful.

You may have seen on the national news that Barnet have banned smartphones borough-wide; we are encouraging Haringey to take the same action. You can read about this [here](#). So far other schools who are taking the same action include Stroud Green, Coleridge, Rokesly, Muswell Hill, Rhodes, APS, Coldfall and Fortismere.

Reflecting our concerns, we hosted a presentation by the smartphone-free childhood campaign in March. Many of you have signed the smartphone-free childhood pledge to not give children a smartphone until they are at least 14. You can read information about the pledge [here](#) and I would encourage you to give it serious consideration. Our school vision is that "we are many members yet one body". In taking collective action we safeguard other people's children as well as our own.



To educate and support children, we will be hosting a workshop for the children in Years 5 and 6 about the use of smartphones and screen time in the Autumn term.

This ban predominantly affects children in Years 5 and 6. I understand that many parents value the ability to contact their children, particularly as they become more independent and start walking to and from school. To give you peace of mind while ensuring child safety, it is worth noting that children's phones do not need internet access for emergency communication. Simple "brick phones" or text-and-call devices can serve this purpose effectively.

As I know some parents have already, if you wish your child to have a phone for safety reasons, you can purchase one of the alternative options listed here (from as little as £19.99):

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

If you have any questions, please see one of the team. Thank you for your support in this important issue.

Kate Stevens
Headteacher