

23 June 2026

'Life in all its fullness'

Dear parents and carers

Creating Mobile Phone-Free Schools

At Three Spires Trust, our purpose is simple: to provide children with the very best environment in which to learn, flourish and thrive.

In recent years, schools, families and society have been faced with growing challenges arising from the widespread use of smartphones and connected devices by children and young people. Whilst technology has many benefits, there is increasing recognition that mobile phones can distract from learning, reduce opportunities for meaningful social interaction and create safeguarding concerns when used during the school day.

The Department for Education has made its expectations clear: schools should be mobile phone-free environments, with any exceptions being just that – exceptions. The guidance states that pupils should not use mobile phones at school at any point: during lessons, between lessons, at breaktimes or at lunchtime.

Three Spires Trust fully supports this approach.

Our Trust Position

Across our family of schools, we believe that children learn best when they are fully present in the life of the school.

We want pupils to:

- focus fully on their learning;
- engage positively with their teachers;
- develop healthy friendships;
- participate in school life without digital distraction;
- enjoy breaktimes and lunchtimes through conversation, play and shared experiences;
- be protected from the risks associated with unsupervised online activity during the school day.

For these reasons, our expectation is clear:

Mobile phones and similar personal smart devices are not to be used by pupils at any point during the school day.

threespirestrust.org

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Three Spires Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company number: 13153266.
Registered address: New Beacon Building, Stafford Education & Enterprise Park, Weston Road, Stafford, England ST18 0BF.

This expectation applies across all Three Spires Trust schools and reflects our commitment to creating calm, purposeful and safe learning environments.

Putting Children First

We recognise that many parents provide a mobile phone for legitimate reasons, particularly where pupils travel to and from school independently.

Our position is not a judgement on those decisions.

Rather, it is a recognition that once pupils enter school, their attention should belong to their learning, their friendships and their wider development—not to notifications, messaging, social media or other online distractions.

Schools exist to help children grow academically, socially and emotionally. We believe that mobile phone-free schools support that aim.

How This Will Work in Your School

While the Trust expectation is the same for every school, the practical arrangements may differ according to the age of pupils and the context of each setting.

Your Headteacher will write separately to explain the specific arrangements that will apply within your child's school, including how phones brought onto site will be managed and the procedures that will be followed where expectations are not met.

Exceptional Circumstances

We recognise that a small number of pupils may require access to technology for medical, accessibility or other exceptional reasons. This may include, for example, pupils who use devices to support the monitoring and management of a medical condition such as diabetes.

Where parents or carers believe that their child requires an exception or adjustment, they should contact the school directly. Schools will work sensitively with families and relevant professionals to ensure that appropriate and reasonable arrangements are put in place.

Working Together

The partnership between school and home is one of the most important factors in a child's success. We therefore ask all parents and carers to support this Trust-wide expectation and to reinforce the message that school is a place for learning, relationships, character development and personal growth. We hope that by working together, we can strive to deliver this without spending valuable school funding on devices such as 'phone pouches'. Further, we wish not to increase your outgoings by asking for financial contributions to any such scheme. However, if pupils do not respond appropriately to these clear expectations, our stance may need to change.

By working together, we can ensure that our schools remain places where children can concentrate, belong, achieve and flourish free from unnecessary distraction.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E Verow'.

Emily Verow

Chief Executive Officer



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