



27th June 2025

Dear families,

As you will be aware over the past couple of months, the Braunton Learning Co-operative Trust which consists of the five primary schools Southmead, Kingsacre, Caen, Georgeham, Marwood and the secondary school of Braunton Academy, have conducted a joint consultation on our smart phone policy. The consultation has been supported by Smartphone Free Childhood (Braunton Branch) and has included surveys to all parents/carers, student voice and three face to face consultation events.

Following this the Headteachers of the six schools are writing to all parents / carers today to share our **new Smartphone Free Policy that comes into place from September 2025**. From September 2025 all Braunton Learning Co-operative Trust Schools are:

1. Smartphone Free School schools

2. We make a clear distinction between a simple phone (without the potential for internet access) and a smartphone or any smart device (with internet or potential internet access).
3. Students are prohibited from bringing any smartphone or smart devices into school.

Enclosed with this letter is the new policy that all six schools are adopting from September. **Please take the time to read it carefully so you are clear on the difference between a simple phone and a smartphone. Please also take time to read about the significant increase in the level of consequence for bringing a Smartphone into school.**

Please take the opportunity to read the **frequently asked questions sheet** in the appendix which should answer most questions parents / carers may have about the policy.

For parents / carers who were unable to attend the consultation events, please scan the QR code below to watch the presentation by Smartphone Free Childhood which included the data around the harms of smartphone and social media exposure at a young age.

BRAUNTON SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

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Now that there is such a wealth of evidence about the harm of smart devices, we feel it is time for the Branton Community to work together to support our children to be healthy and better protected from the adverse effects exposure to smart phone technology has while they are of school age.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fay Bowler'.

Fay Bowler
Principal

