

Rockmount Primary School Pupil Mobile Phone Statement

Updated March 2026



Rockmount is a Smartphone Free School

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and healthy learning environment, **Rockmount Primary School is a 'smartphone free' school.**

There is a national conversation about the appropriate age for children to receive their first smartphone. While technology offers numerous benefits and opportunities, recent research has highlighted a concerning link between the age at which a child gets their first smartphone and mental health issues in young adulthood.

(see research <https://sapienlabs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Sapien-Labs-Age-of-First-Smartphone-and-Mental-Wellbeing-Outcomes.pdf>)

We understand that many parents choose to provide their children with smartphones once they start walking to school independently, primarily for safety reasons. However, over the past few years, we have observed a significant increase in problems related to phone use and social media participation among our children. Also, once a child has a smartphone (especially if it is linked to a contract), it can be challenging for parents to retract this decision. Some parents, despite initial reluctance, eventually give in to provide a phone to prevent their child from feeling isolated from their peers.

Recognising these challenges, we maintain a smartphone-free policy. We encourage parents who feel the need for their child to have a phone for safety reasons to consider pay-as-you-go basic phones without internet access. These phones are both affordable and readily available.

Children from Nursery to Year 4 are **not** permitted to have phones in school.

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who make their own way to and from school are **not permitted to bring in smartphones** but may use a basic phone without internet access when parents/carers have signed the permission form below. Please note that pupils will still be required to hand in their phone at the beginning of each school day.

For more detailed information and resources, please visit the Smartphone Free Childhood website.

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

Rockmount Primary School has been awarded the Gold Level Smartphone Free Schools rating. This is the highest level of recognition within the Smartphone Free Schools framework, designed by school leaders to support pupils' wellbeing, reduce distractions and strengthen positive, in-person social interactions.

This reflects a whole-school commitment to creating an environment that prioritises focus, safety, meaningful play and connection throughout the school day. It represents

not only our clear expectations around mobile devices but also the collective commitment of our staff, pupils and families to maintaining a school culture where children can learn, socialise and thrive without the pressures and distractions that smartphones can bring.

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Pupils from Reception to year 4 are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school. Some parents/carers of year 5 and year 6 pupils have given written consent for their child to travel home from school independently at the end of the school day. Therefore, year 5 and year 6 pupils are permitted to bring a basic mobile phone to school (No smartphones or phones with internet access) so that their parent/carer is able to contact them on their journey to or from school. If you have given your child a mobile phone to bring school, please sign and return the slip below. There is no requirement for pupils to have mobile phones in school for any other purpose and we request parents/carers to support us by ensuring that pupils do not bring phones to school if it is not necessary.

There are specific requirements related to mobile phones in school:

- Pupils must switch their phones off on entry to the school premises and ensure that they remain off until they leave the premises at the end of the school day.
- Pupils must hand their phones to the class teacher for safe keeping on entry to the classroom in the morning. They will be returned to them at the end of the day.
- Pupils who attend the Rockmount Children's Club must hand their phones to the allocated member of staff until they are collected at the end of the session.
- School does not take responsibility for the loss of any mobile phone on school premises.
- Should any pupil be found using a mobile phone during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and the parent/carer will be contacted.
- By signing the consent form, you are agreeing to support the school when dealing with cyberbullying concerns in order to enable us to prevent the incident from spreading. You are giving the school permission to assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

I give permission for my child to bring a mobile phone into school and I agree to support the school when dealing with cyberbullying concerns as outlined in the anti-bullying policy.

Child's name and class: _____

Parent/carer name: _____

Parent/carer signature: _____

Date: _____