

The Federations of Beckwithshaw, Kettlesing Felliscliffe and Ripley Endowed CE Primary Schools

16th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Smartphone Free School and Social Media Ban for Under 16's

You may be aware that yesterday the government announced plans to ban social media access for children under the age of 16.

As you know, our federation became Smartphone-Free in March 2025. Well over a year ago, we made the proactive decision to remove smartphones from our school environment, invest in Chromebooks, and phase out the use of tablets. Alongside this, we implemented robust filtering and monitoring systems to ensure safe and appropriate digital use for children, staff and all visitors to our buildings.

For us, this national announcement does not change our approach. We remain steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding children's wellbeing, supporting their focus in school, and promoting healthy, balanced use of technology.

We also recognise that online safety extends beyond the school day. In line with national safeguarding expectations, including the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance and UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) advice, we recognise that effective online safety requires a whole-community approach, with schools and families working together. We are therefore committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to support safe, responsible and age-appropriate use of technology at home, and to encourage open, informed conversations with children about their online activity and experiences. **Community-Compassion-Courage** - our Federation values.

We ask all parents and carers to actively support this approach by supervising children's online activity, ensuring that age restrictions for social media platforms are adhered to, and reinforcing the expectations set by the school within the home environment.

We feel incredibly proud that we took decisive action early, putting strong measures in place to protect and support our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warmest regards,



Miss V Kirkman
Executive Headteacher