

Canterbury Schools' Pledge on Smartphones and Smart Devices

Young people deserve to learn in environments free from the distractions of smart devices. As a collective of schools across the Canterbury district, we will create school environments which are free from smartphone access during the school day. Based on compelling evidence, this will enhance learning, mental wellbeing and social engagement.

Our approach is not anti-tech; it is pro-childhood. Technology is a powerful tool, and we want young people to grow up confident in using it intentionally rather than becoming dependent on it. We believe it is important to give children more time to simply be children before introducing the complexities of a constantly connected online world.

We therefore support and encourage families to create smartphone-free spaces at home, inspiring unstructured play and time spent outdoors. To help maintain this balance, we recommend delaying the introduction of smartphones until children are at least in Year 10.
