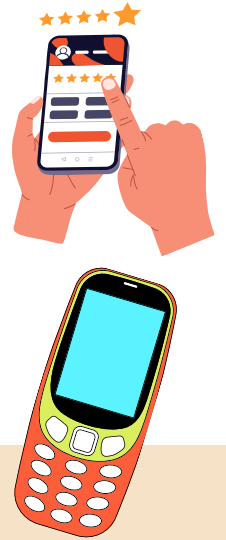


Coten End Primary School

Parent Smartphone Agreement

In partnership with parents, Coten End Primary School strongly recommends that children are not given a smartphone for their personal use until the Summer Term of Year 6 at the earliest.

Where a phone is needed for communication between parent and child, we recommend a basic phone that does not have access to the internet.



Parent Agreement

When we decide our child is ready to have a smartphone for personal use, we recognise that the phone belongs to the parent(s) and that the parent(s) is responsible for all content stored on the phone or sent from the phone – this includes, but is not limited to, images, messages and video content either generated on the phone by the child or by others.

We understand that any inappropriate content stored on or sent from the phone at any time, even after being deleted, could have serious legal implications for the parent(s).

We recognise the importance of modelling and encouraging a healthy and responsible approach to phone use.

We will follow the below guidelines and expectations drawn up by school professionals in consultation with parents:

1. How our child will use their smartphone

We will not allow our child to access any apps or social media with an age rating beyond their age. This includes, but is not limited to, WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube.

We will make sure our child does not use their smartphone in private spaces (bedrooms, toilets etc.)

We will make sure our child does not use their Smartphone before 8am and will agree with them a time between 5pm-6.30pm by which they will stop using it for the day.

2. How we will monitor and supervise our child using their smartphone

We will regularly monitor our child's smartphone usage, including the apps they use, websites they visit and messages they send.

We will use appropriate parental control tools and put in place safeguards to protect our children from potential online risk, with help from this recommended guide on parental controls:

www.common sense media.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-parental-controls

3. How school and parents will prepare children to use smartphones

School will deliver a robust Online Safety Education. We, as parents, will support school by talking about and actively engaging our children in online safety, privacy concerns, issues of cyberbullying and the potential consequences of inappropriate smartphone use.

4. How we will lead by example

We will model healthy smartphone habits by demonstrating responsible smartphone use, being mindful of excessive screen time and engaging in face-to-face interactions with our children and other family members.

We will limit our own phone use during family time and prioritise quality time together without distractions.

5. When things go wrong

We will support school in managing situations where our child is involved in inappropriate phone use and will trust the judgement of school in these situations.

Where there is inappropriate use, we will reconsider whether our child is ready to own a smartphone and consider advice from school professionals about this.

By committing to this Parent Agreement for Children's Smartphone Use, we aim to guide our children towards responsible and balanced smartphone usage, supporting their growth, well-being and positive digital citizenship.

Please delete as appropriate:

- We agree with the recommendation that our child(ren) should not have access to a personal smartphone before the Summer Term of Year 6 at the earliest.
- We have assessed our child(ren)'s readiness for having a personal smartphone and made the decision that our child is mature enough to possess their own smartphone as of _____ (date). We agree to abide by this parent agreement.

Child(ren) _____

Parent(s) _____

Signed _____

When this agreement is returned to school, it will be photocopied and a copy will be sent for you to keep and refer to at home.

Helpful resources



Scan here to access the recommended guide on parental controls.



Small GPS bracelets or trackers to attach to your child's bag or coat can give extra peace of mind.



Find out about smartphone alternatives at Smartphone Free Childhood. SFC also have local WhatsApp communities of parents.