



Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

21st July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support for our *Guiding Digital Childhoods* work, including the voluntary family register. Together, we are helping to keep children safer online and promote healthier relationships with technology through our four shared principles. Further information and resources can be found on our [Guiding Digital Childhoods webpage](#).

As previously shared, from **September 2026**, pupils will not be permitted to bring smartphones or other internet-capable smart devices onto the school site, including for storage or hand-in. This applies even where internet or app functions have been disabled. Pupils who travel independently may still apply to bring a basic call-and-text phone, which we will refer to as a 'dumb' phone, which must be handed to staff on the school gates or into the School Office.

Parents can allow their child to carry a small GPS tracker concealed inside their school bag. This is intended to support children who regularly travel independently while helping families delay smartphone ownership, and is an approach supported by Smartphone Free Childhoods and PAPAYA. Approved trackers must remain silent and concealed in the bag, must never be removed or used by the child, and remain entirely the parent's responsibility. The school cannot accept liability for loss, damage or inaccurate tracking information. Please fill in the application for permission to bring a **basic mobile phone** or parent-owned location **tracker** to school attached in preparation for September [here](#).

Trackers will be **strictly prohibited on all trips, residentials and other off-site activities**, as they could reveal the location and movements of other pupils and staff. Parents will be responsible for removing them beforehand.

Further safeguarding and management information can be found on our website.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs G Hillier
Headteacher