

Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Cotswold School, we want to work closely with families to help our students stay safe, happy and responsible in an increasingly digital world.

Technology brings many opportunities for young people, but it also comes with challenges. Research continues to highlight that developing healthy digital habits requires support both at school and at home. By working together, we can help our children use technology positively, safely and with confidence.

As a school, our mobile phone expectations are designed to support learning, wellbeing and positive social interaction throughout the school day. However, we also recognise that online safety extends far beyond the school gates. Open conversations at home, appropriate boundaries and positive role modelling all play an important part in helping young people navigate the online world safely.

We would encourage all parents and carers to:

- Take time to explore parental controls and privacy settings on devices and apps.
- Discuss online safety, social media and gaming regularly with your child.
- Agree sensible expectations around screen time and device use.
- Encourage children to speak openly if they encounter anything online that worries or upsets them.
- Contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's online safety or wellbeing.

The Cotswold School mobile phone policy can be found [here](#).

Two particularly useful sources of advice and support are:

Vodafone Digital Parenting Hub (with the NSPCC)

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/>

Internet Matters

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

Keeping children safe online is a shared responsibility, and we greatly value the partnership we have with our families. Together, we can help our young people develop the skills, resilience and judgement they need to thrive in the digital world.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith
Deputy Headteacher
The Cotswold School