



Ferndale Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin
Ferndale Primary School and Nursery - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thursday 16th October

Important Notice: E-Safety and Mobile Phones in School

At Ferndale, keeping our pupils safe—both in school and online—is our top priority. We are writing to remind families about our expectations around mobile phone use in school and to share some important e-safety information and updates.

Recently, we have been made aware that a small number of pupils in Year 6 have taken photos on their phones while in school. As you will understand, this presents a **serious safeguarding concern**. To ensure the safety and privacy of all children and staff, we are reinforcing our mobile phone procedures across Year 6.

Updated Procedure from Friday 17th October 2025:

- Any child who brings a mobile phone to school must hand it in to **Mrs Witherington** or **Mrs Uzzell** as they enter the school building each morning.
- Phones will be stored securely during the day and returned to children at home time.
- Phones must be switched off when handed in and remain switched off while on school premises.

This procedure applies to all children, in year six, who bring a phone to school and is designed to ensure that every child is safe, focused, and fully engaged in their learning. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing these procedures.

Supporting E-Safety at Home

Whilst we will talk to both year six classes about E-Safety specifically around the use of mobile phones, this afternoon, we know that helping children to use technology safely and responsibly can be challenging. Below are some recommended websites that offer excellent advice and resources for parents and children:

- **Childnet:** www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
 - Practical tips on setting boundaries, privacy settings, and online behaviour.
- **Internet Matters:** www.internetmatters.org
 - Step-by-step parental controls and age-appropriate advice for managing online activity.
- **NSPCC – Online Safety:** www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
 - Guidance on discussing online safety and what to do if you're concerned.

We encourage all parents to take a few minutes to explore these resources with their child to reinforce the importance of e-safety and responsible online behaviour.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to safeguard all children at Ferndale. If you have any questions or would like further advice about e-safety, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards

Miss Liz Horrobin
Headteacher