



Smartphone Voluntary Agreement

The use of smartphones, mobile phones, smart devices and other technologies is now a feature of daily life for people of all ages.

There is an increasing awareness amongst educators and mental health professionals that smart phone use:

1. Is contributing to a globally observable increase in anxiety amongst children.
2. May expose children to several risks, including cyberbullying as well potentially encountering harmful or disturbing interactions and content.
3. Has detrimental effects on the developing brain especially on children under the age of 14 - socially, emotionally and educationally.

Hence the government have launched a guide for parents and parents' associations, [called Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free.](#)

In response to this and to the survey circulated to all parents, last year we are recommending that as many Parents as possible sign up to an annual smartphone voluntary agreement.

The voluntary agreement will:

Commit you to delaying providing your child(ren) with their own smartphone or smart device until at least the end of sixth class.

Commit you to delaying providing your child(ren) access to social media

We recognise that as part of the school's education programme some pupils have supervised access to technology and online educational resources to support their learning and enhance their learning experience.

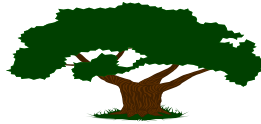
Access to and use of the internet during the school day is outlined in the school's Acceptable Internet Usage Policy (AUP) and the smartphone voluntary agreement does not interfere with this.

We also respect each family's right to decide whether their children have access to a smartphone or smart device and access to social media. We believe that this smartphone voluntary agreement offers parents and guardians who are concerned about their child having personal access to a smartphone, a tool to help address the above issues.

Key points:

1. All information is confidential and results will only be assimilated by class group as a percentage.
2. The agreement recognizes that every family has different priorities and opinions in relation to internet access and smartphone use.
3. If a parent /guardian alters their view subsequently and wants to purchase a personal smartphone device for their child(ren) they can do so at any stage.
4. It is not a solution in itself to the growing problem but it is potentially one tool which may be helpful to those who wish to avail of it.

Scail Mhaire



Fairfeacht agas taircint

Additional resources:

- [Irish Times: Teenagers talk pornography](#)
- [Psych Central: How Smartphones Affect Child Development](#)
- [Webwise : information and support you need to ensure your child makes the most of their time online](#)
- [Cybersafe Kids](#)