

Kids, smartphones and how PGPS can help

Primary school presentation

MARCH 2025

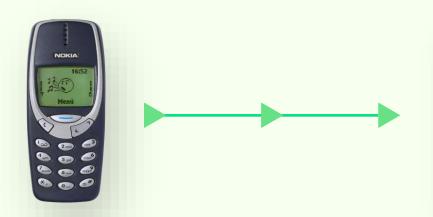


Smartphones are a new frontier: for parents, for young people & for educators





In two decades, everything's changed





2005

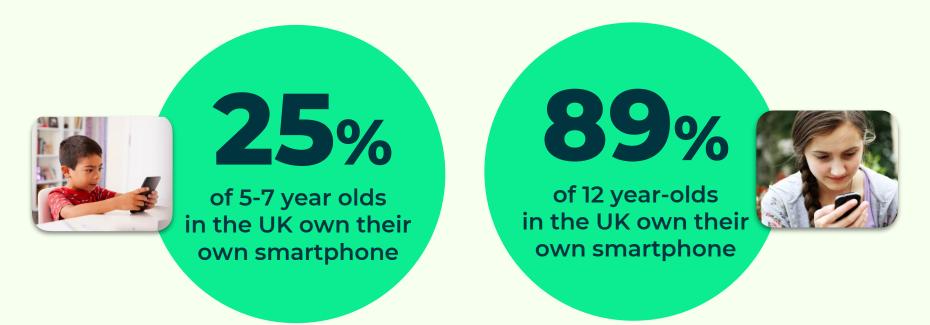
Nokias ruled; the iPhone wasn't invented until 2007

2025

Smartphones have transformed the experience of childhood

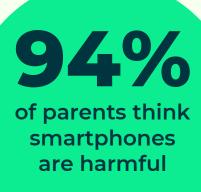


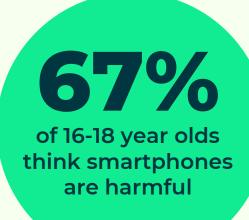
Smartphones have become the norm





Despite growing concerns about their impact









Everyone's got one because everyone's got one



Most parents believe smartphones are harmful, yet the average age of ownership is 9

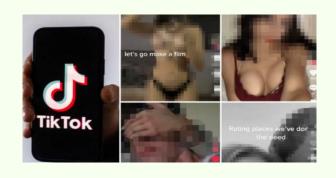


Because resisting peer pressure becomes almost impossible when children's social lives migrate online

The powerful network effects of smartphones and social media mean parents and young people feel like they have no choice



The three major concerns







CONTENT

Smartphones are gateways to extreme content and viewpoints that we'd never expose children to in real life.

CONTACT

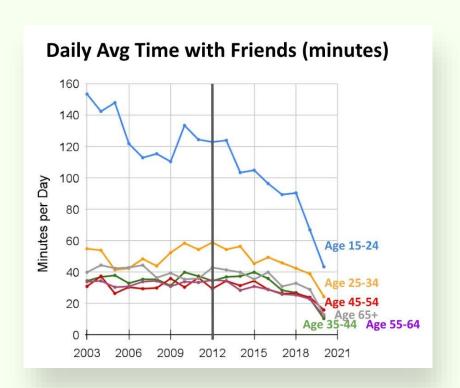
Sites like TikTok, Snapchat and Roblox are used by sexual predators to target children with their first smartphones.

TIME

Smartphones are fundamentally changing childhood - distracting children from engaging in real world activities.



Smartphones are rewiring childhood







What are we losing?



Less time outdoors



Less time playing, reading & exercising



Less social interaction and face to face communication



More time scrolling, alone

What does it feel like from a parent?





SFC is building a huge parents' movement

100,000+

Parent Pacts have been signed, agreeing to delay smartphones until at least the age of 14





The movement is growing in [Insert region]

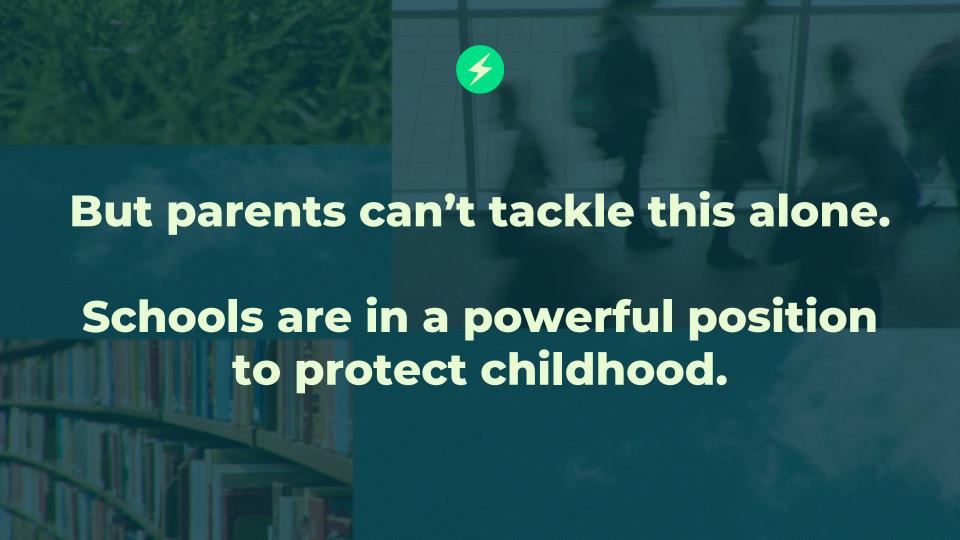
1358

Parent Pacts have been signed in Nottinghamshire

27

Parent Pacts have been signed in PGPS

SCHOOL NAME	PACTS
The Lanes Primary School, Beeston 🛪	114
Abbey Road Primary School, West Bridgford	79
Round Hill Primary School, Beeston 7	79
Welbeck Primary School 7	58
St Edmund Campion RC Primary School, West Bridgford	45
Fernwood Primary School 7	43
Jesse Gray Primary School, West Bridgford	38
Edwalton Primary School, Edwalton	32
Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant School, Radcliffe-on-Trent	32
West Bridgford Junior School, West Bridgford	28
Ladv Bav Primary School. West Bridaford 🗷	27
Pierrepont Gamston Primary School, West Bridgford	27
East Bridgford St Peters CE Academy, East Bridgford 🗷	21





01. Support parents taking collective action

- The more parents who sign the Pact in any community, the more powerful it becomes.
- Schools can support parent-led initiatives to build Parent Pact numbers in your school
- Generally being supportive of the initiative and approach is a great start
- Many Primary schools have promoted the Pact via school newsletter or website







02. Holding a parent talk in your school

- We recommend Papaya Parents
- They have network of speakers who can give low-cost talks in schools helping parents navigate 'raising kids in the digital age'.
- In-person talks are particularly powerful and generally very well attended





Making your school fully smartphone-free



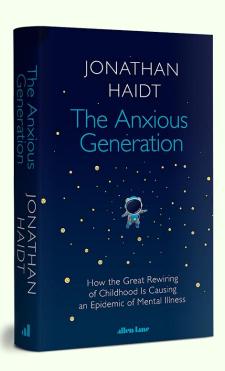
Set a clear boundary that primary school children do not need a smartphone



Being explicitly smartphone-free helps change the culture in your school community



Recommended reading: The Anxious Generation



"We have made childhood smaller, lonelier, and sadder— wrapped up in the glow of a screen. It's time to unplug our children from a system that was never designed to protect them and give them back the gift of a real childhood"



Dr Jonathan HaidtProfessor of Social Psychology, NYU

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Recommended watching: Swiped, the school that banned smartphones, on Channel 4



"Children's access to smartphones and social media is the defining public health crisis of our time"



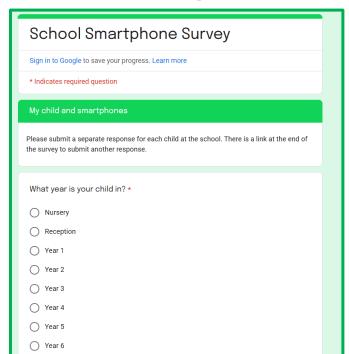
Dr Rangan ChatterjeePresenter, Swiped

So what are we doing...

Proposed questionnaire...

Find out more about what PGPS parents think and what the problems/ solutions are.

This could be shared across all Rushcliffe Spencer feeder schools to have a broad data set?



Proposed Pupil Device Policy

MOBILE PHONE & DEVICE POLICY - PUPILS

We recognise that mobile phones and devices are part of everyday life for many children and young people, and they can be a valuable and important resource.

Children learn about the use of mobile technology during online safety lessons and as part of our PSHE curriculum. It is important that children develop sensible habits surrounding their use and also learn about inappropriate use and the impact this can have.

Mobile Phones

At Pierrepont Gamston Primary School, children should not bring a mobile phone into school, unless this is absolutely necessary – for example, where a child travels to and from school unaccompanied.

Initially, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide:

- Whether the child is responsible enough to look after their phone and use it appropriately.
- · Whether the child understands the safety risks involved.

The following rules apply where a child needs to bring their mobile phone to school:

- Parents/carers need to sign the permission form available at the end of this policy.
- The phone must not be a smart phone (no access to the internet or social media) alternatives are available at low cost and examples can be found here:

https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives

- Phones must not be used anywhere on the school premises. They must be switched off before a
 pupil enters the school gates and not switched on until leaving the school gates at the end of the
 day.
- Phones must be handed in to the teacher first thing in the morning. Phones will be stored in a locked drawer in the classroom
- Under no circumstances should there be access to phones during the school day or for phones to be left in pupils' bags or pockets.
- All phones are brought to school at the owner's own risk school accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage whilst on school premises.
- Pupils are not allowed to take mobile phones on school trips or residential visits.
- Where a child is attending an after-school activity, mobile phones must remain turned off and kept in the student's bag.

September 25 for year 5 only?

September 26 for all year 5 and 6.



Find our more information at:

www.smartphonefreeschools.co.uk

www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

@smartphonefreechildhood