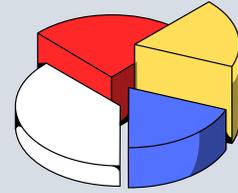


RESULTS OF SMARTPHONE SURVEY October 2025



Are you willing to support this initiative and consider delaying the purchase of a smartphone for your child while they are in primary school?

Key for Pie Charts

Yes

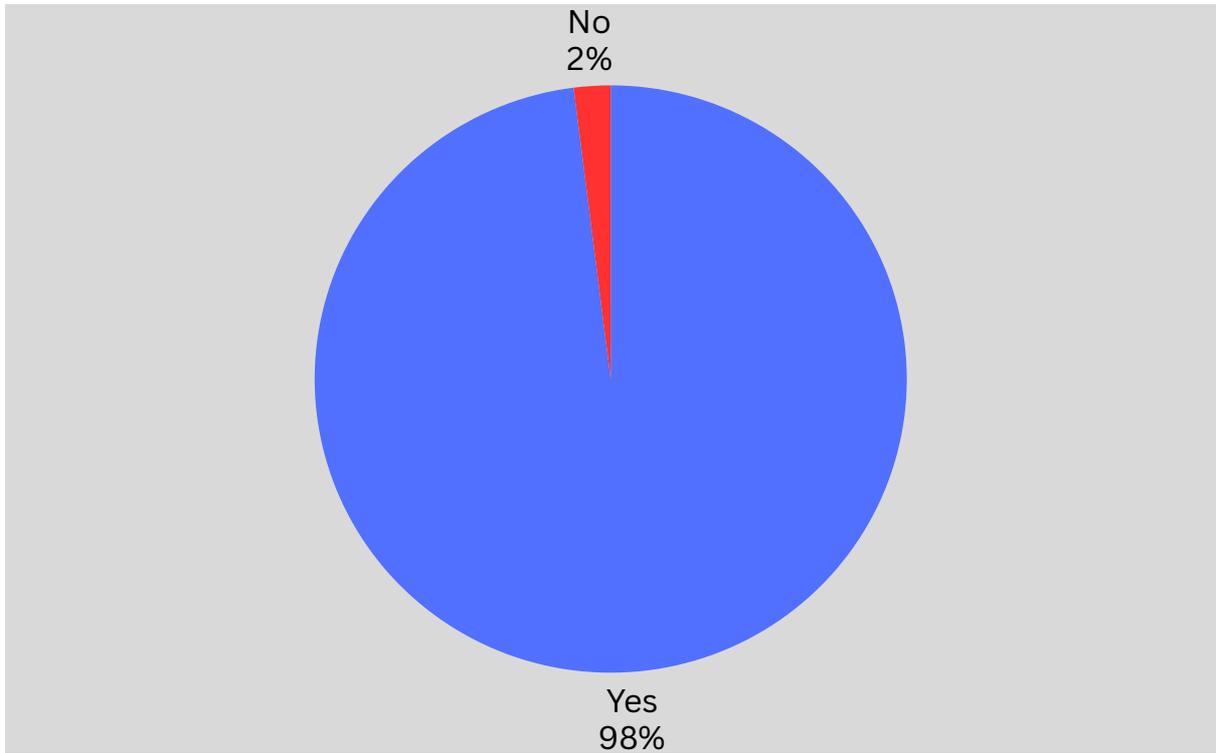
No

My child already has a phone

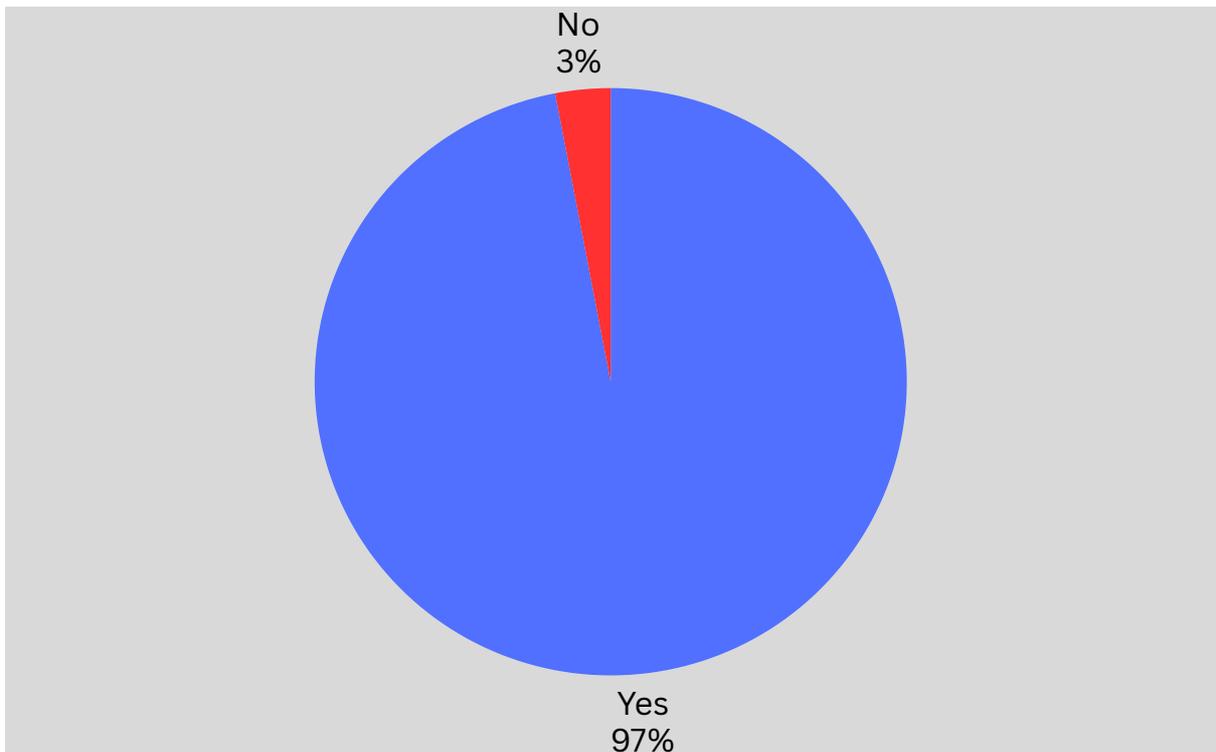
Here are the results from each class level, at the end of the charts there's a selection of responses made. Please have a read.

Thank you!

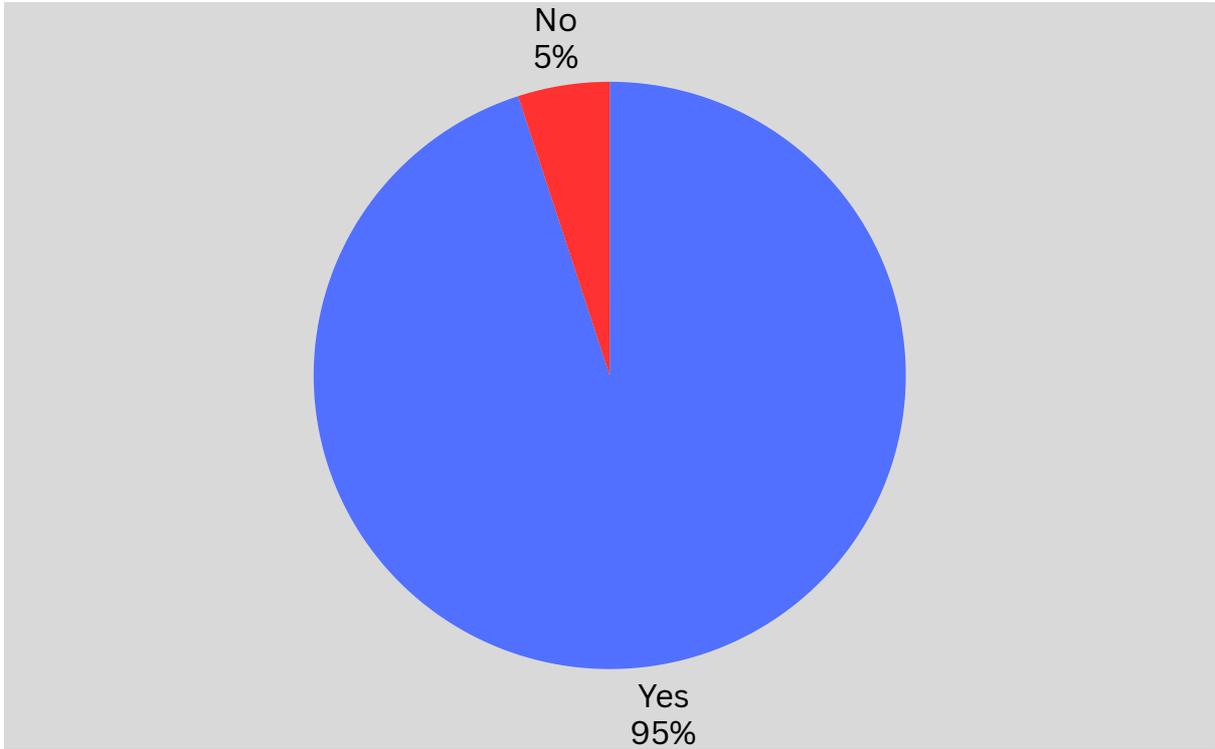
Junior Infants



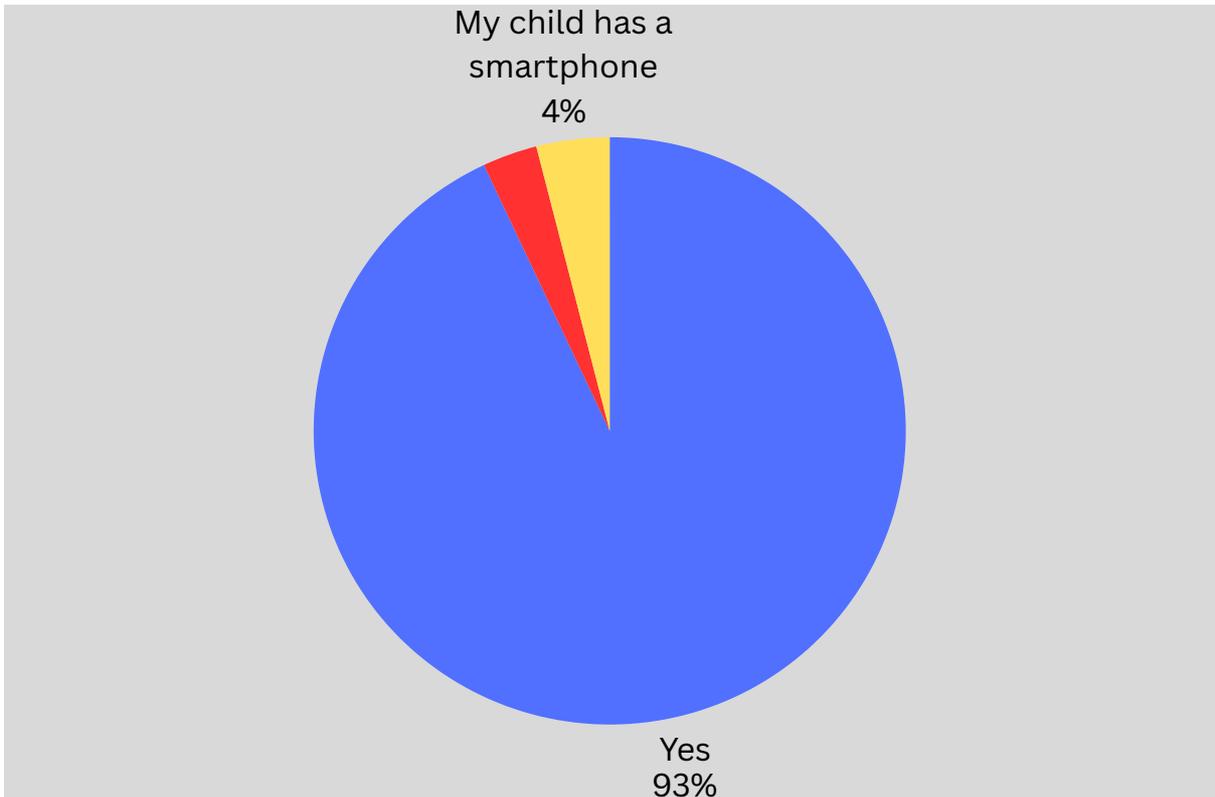
Senior Infants



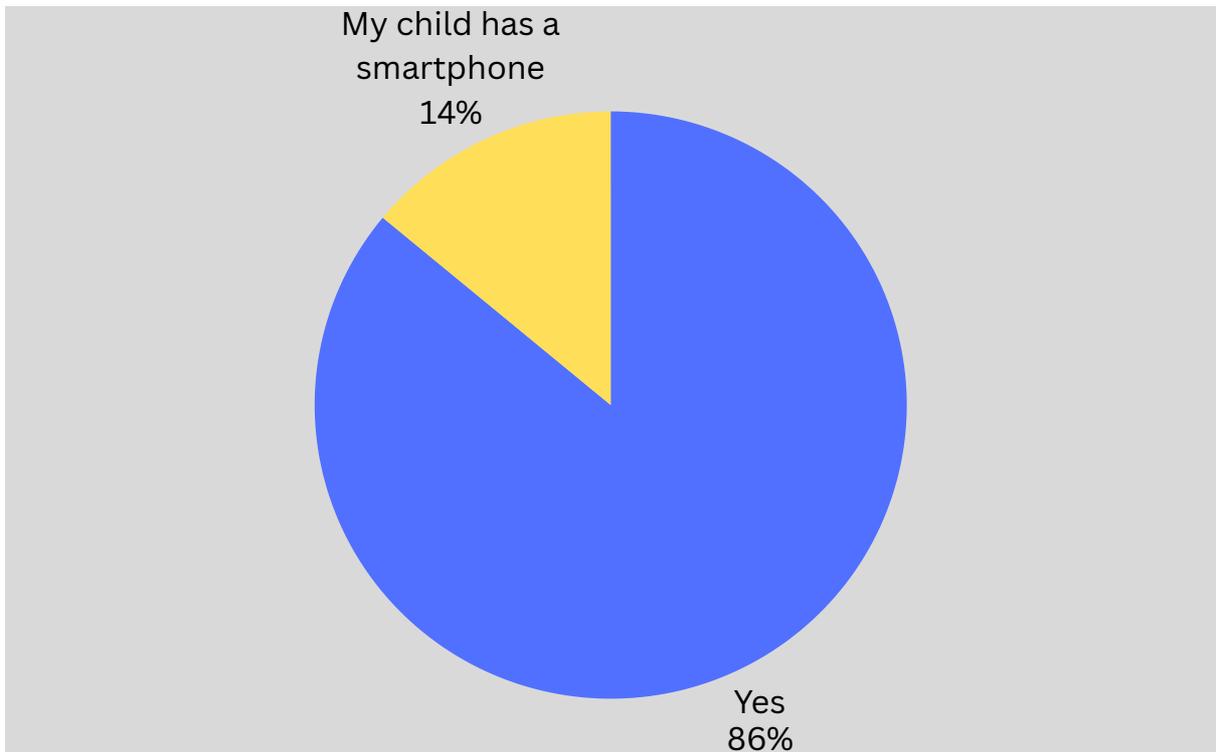
1st Class



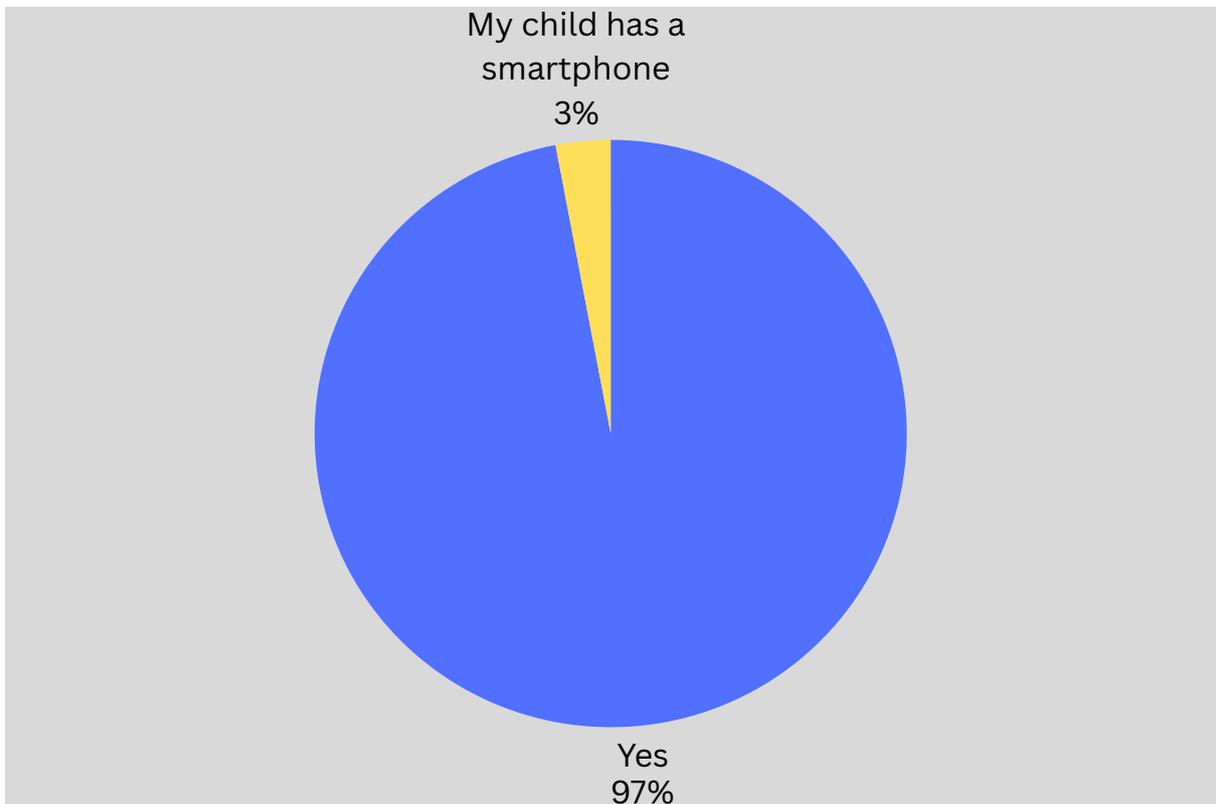
2nd Class



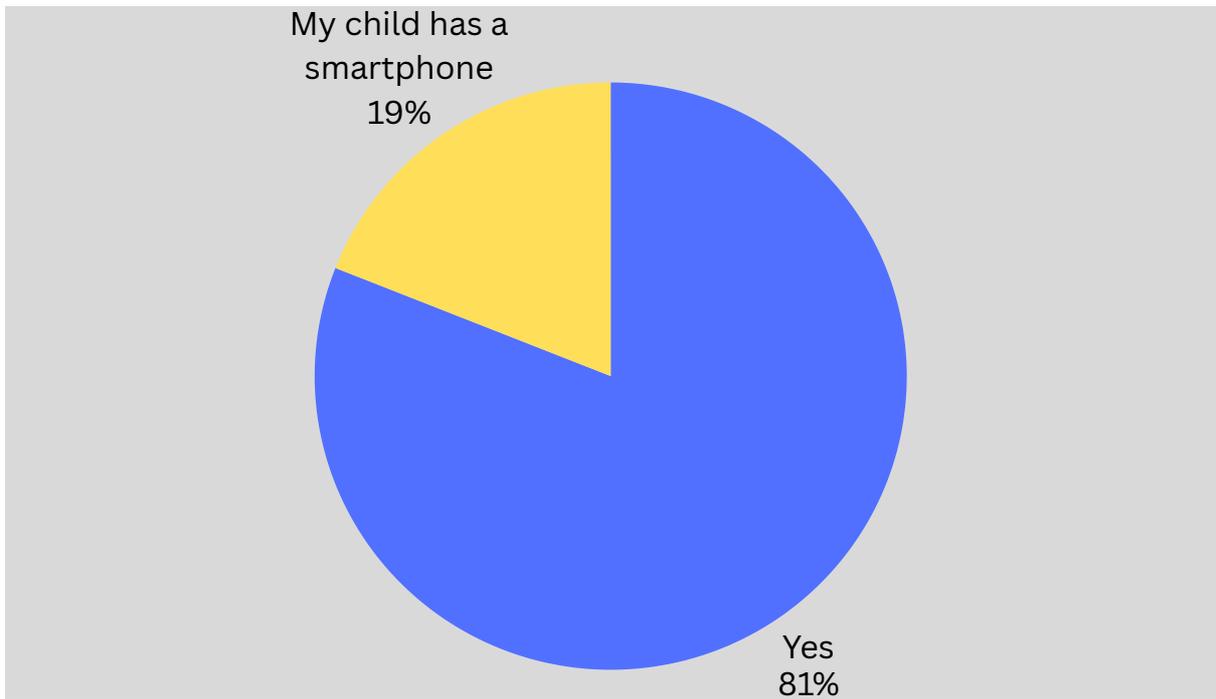
3rd Class



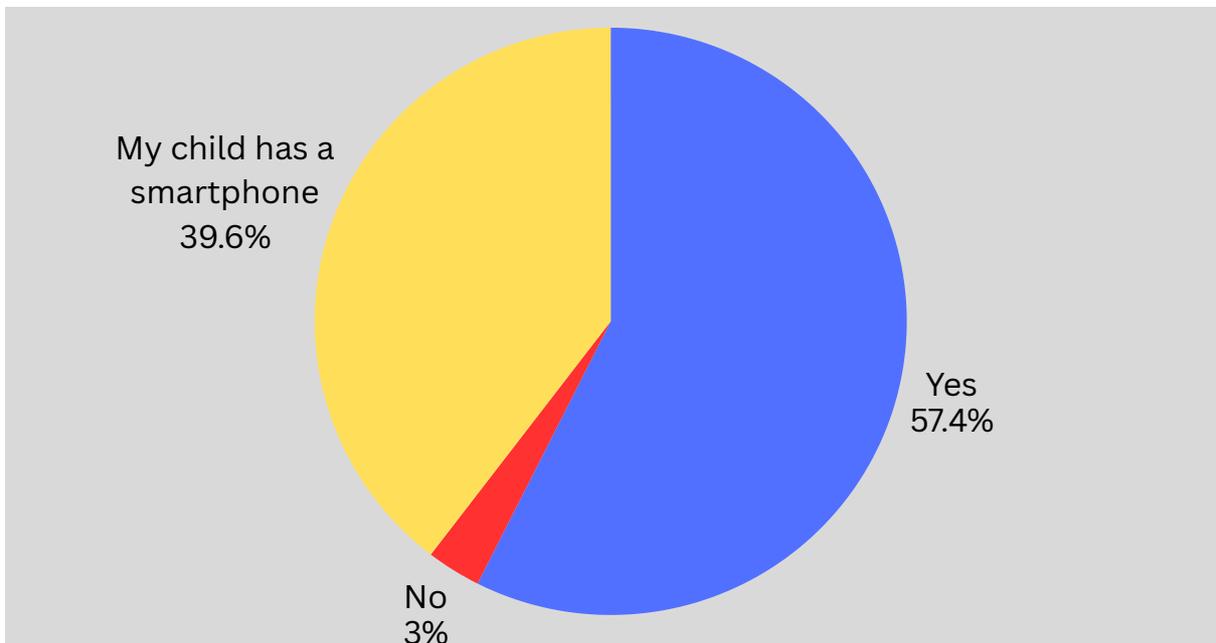
4th Class



5th Class



6th Class



In theory the idea of having buy-in from other parents would mean less peer pressure from class mates to have a phone thus making one less obstacle while navigating the tricky subject with our children. I like the idea of it and I'm interested to hear peoples lived experience.

There are other devices more akin to a basic phone (eg watch) that can keep your child in contact with you if absolutely needed. Smartphones open the door to social media and the toxic and damaging content there does so much harm to adults, it can be devastating to children.

I believe barring such devices serves little purpose and is really just denial of their reality so my focus is to be as up to date as possible on risks and keep an open line of dialogue with my children about their world. I genuinely understand the debate and concern but I feel we have to support our kids in their reality. And like it or not that includes this technology.

I think this is a great initiative and think we should follow countries like Australia where they have banned certain social media sites for under 16s. We need more regulation surrounding phones and social media here in Ireland. We are forerunners when it comes to a lot of issues but I think we are a little bit late to the party on this one. Kids should be allowed to be kids. My child is regularly asking for phone and it is hard to hold out mainly because others have phones the same age, but I think it's important.

INTERESTING COMMENTS FROM PARENTS:

Excellent policy, we have delayed any phone purchase and it would be great if other parents and guardians supported this endeavour too.

I hope secondary schools consider a similar initiative, even for their junior cycle. Children are too young for the difficulties that come with smart phones.

I've tried to limit the usage of it but now it's too late. Friends are on the phone too, they communicate via phone, play via phone, talk via phone. It's hard to take them out of it, I don't like it.

They are terrible for kids. My son hasn't got 1 yet and won't till he's in secondary school. Nobody talks face to face anymore. And their spellings suffer because everything is short hand while texting.

The longer we delay it the better. Social media is a vicious place and the longer I can keep my children from them I will. I find even my children's mood after getting off a tablet can be horrific. I want to keep their innocence for as long as I possibly can

I am so grateful that SETNS are leading this campaign. For us, it is about one thing and that is protecting our children. We are really aware of the benefits of delaying smartphone use, so we really back this initiative. Thanks so much!

We will get a smartphone for our son when we believe he has the cognitive and emotional capacity to use one responsibly

I think the focus shouldn't just be on whether kids have access to devices - that's become almost inevitable. What really matters is how they're using them. For example, my child uses their device to draw, follow DIY projects, and even to help with piano practice. We keep an eye on what they're accessing, and they're not allowed to use social media. It's about intentional use and good boundaries, not just screen time limited

INTERESTING COMMENTS FROM PARENTS:

I am strongly in favour of delaying giving a smartphone to a primary school aged child, I am concerned that other kids will have phones and my son will have access to inappropriate viewing. Very much wish that the government would ban smartphones for children until at least secondary school

I hope secondary schools consider a similar initiative, even for their junior cycle. Children are too young for the difficulties that come with smart phones.

I am very strict about not having smartphones until 14-16. I read a lot about it and I listen to very renowned professionals talking and explaining why kids shouldn't have access to smartphones until 16 (when they are a bit more mature).

I would like to delay smartphone & social media use for as long as possible - it's great the school is driving this.

We are all addicted to smart phones - parents ignore their babies while pushing them in buggies, children walk to school looking at a screen, barely taking their eyes off to cross the road, people have stopped talking to one another at lunch breaks, on buses etc. It's an epidemic and it needs to stop. But everyone needs to be on board.

I believe they are harmful to children and young adolescents. Dealing with peer pressure to own a smartphone is becoming an issue however we as a family feel very strongly about delaying the purchase of a smartphone until secondary school.

INTERESTING COMMENTS FROM PARENTS:

Our concern is that she will feel excluded from her peers and this will have a negative impact on her. I would recommend any parent/teacher to watch the school that banned smart phone documentary, it was an eye opener for us. Our main concern for our 3rd class daughter is screen time and particularly Roblox. We have limited tablet time to 2hrs on wks only. I really was shocked when I looked at Roblox and don't think a lot of parents realise the dangers and how inappropriate and suggestive a lot of the content is. Our girls are reluctantly accepting of our rules and restrictions and understand the reasons why and we debate it regularly as a family.

