

Smartphone Voluntary Agreement for Cloonakilla NS

Aims

1. To encourage parents not to purchase a smartphone for their child until Term 3 of 6th class
2. To encourage pupils to embrace this agreement and resist peer pressure to own a smartphone
3. To support parents and teachers who are worried about the detrimental effect of smartphone devices on their children and pupils
4. To emphasise the importance of adhering to age restrictions for apps and games. Platforms like TIKTOK (13 years), Snapchat (13 years), WhatsApp (16 years) and various games e.g. Fortnite (12 years) are not suitable for younger children due to their content and potential impact on behavior.

Key Points

1. The Voluntary Agreement does not include regular mobile phones with no internet access.
2. It recognizes that every family has different priorities and opinions in relation to internet access and smartphone use.
3. If a parent/guardian wants to opt out of this agreement and buy a smartphone for their child at any stage they are free to do so.
4. This is not a solution to a growing problem but merely one tool which may help those who wish to avail of it. e.g. if a child comes home from school claiming that everyone in their class has a smartphone except them, a parent can state that only a % of children in the class have smartphones and the others will not get one until Term 3 in 6th class.
5. Parents will be supported via the website www.webwise.ie and pupils will be supported as part of the SPHE Programme.
6. This agreement will not be policed by the Parents Association or Principal.

Procedure

1. Having read this agreement parents are invited to sign the accompanying form.
2. It is important to note that all data will be deleted once the analysis is complete.
3. The results will be assimilated by class group as a % and the results will be communicated to the parents of each class group.