Mobile Phones in Shetland Schools - Parent / Carer Survey

Contents

Executive Summary

General Views on Mobile Phones in Schools

Enhancing Learning: Mixed opinions, with some parents believing mobile phones can enhance learning if used appropriately, while others disagree.

Safety: Majority of parents do not believe mobile phones help keep children safer at school.

Classroom Use: Most parents are against the use of mobile phones in classrooms, especially for activities like listening to music or as a reward for finishing work.

Concerns and Issues

Bullying: High concern among parents about bullying related to mobile phone use at school.

Mental Health: Majority of parents believe mobile phone use at school negatively affects children's mental health.

Addictive Behaviour: Strong agreement that mobile phones, social media, and gaming applications encourage addictive behaviour.

School Policies and Enforcement

Policy Agreement: Many parents are unaware of the school's mobile phone policy or disagree with it.

Effective Enforcement: Parents feel that mobile phone rules at school are not enforced effectively

Suggestions for Future Guidance

Restrictions: Strong support for restrictions during class time, with devices out of sight or handed in to the teacher.

Whole School Ban: Mixed opinions on a whole school ban, with some parents supporting it and others preferring fewer restrictions as pupils get older.

Parental Controls: Majority of parents use parental controls on their children's mobile phones, including restricted access to age-appropriate content and app time limits.

Qualitative Responses

Positive Responses: Some parents see benefits in using mobile phones for educational purposes and as a tool for accessibility.

Negative Responses: Many parents express concerns about distractions, bullying, and the negative impact on social skills and mental health.

Neutral Responses: A few parents are undecided or see both positive and negative aspects of mobile phone use in schools.

Overall, the survey reveals a significant concern among parents and carers about the impact of mobile phones on children's safety, mental health, and learning environment. There is a strong call for clear and effective policies to manage mobile phone use in schools.

General

1. Do you think mobile phones can enhance learning if used appropriately?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		47.00%	235
2	No		36.20%	181
3	Not sure		16.80%	84
			answered	500
			skipped	0

2. Do you believe mobile phones help keep children safer at school?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		20.40%	102
2	No		65.00%	325
3	Not sure		14.60%	73
			answered	500
			skipped	0

3. Do you think mobile phones should be used in classrooms?

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Total
As directed by the teacher?	32.40% 162	64.00% 320	3.60% 18	500
To access educational apps?	37.80% 189	57.00% 285	5.20% 26	500
To undertake online research?	36.00% 180	60.00% 300	4.00% 20	500
As a reward for finishing work?	6.60% 33	90.00% 450	3.40% 17	500
To listen to music?	20.20% 101	72.40% 362	7.40% 37	500
As an accessibility tool?	32.13% 160	49.40% 246	18.47% 92	498
			answered	500
			skipped	0

Comment: (188)

Individual comments not published.

Specific

4. Do you think mobile phones should be allowed during break and lunchtimes?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		36.20%	181
2	No		40.40%	202
3	Only is designated areas		23.40%	117
			answered	500
			skipped	0

5. Are you concerned about cyberbullying related to mobile phone use at school?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		76.20%	381
2	No		12.40%	62
3	Somewhat, please detail below		11.40%	57
			answered	500
			skipped	0

Comment: (151)

Not published to the internet.

6. Do you think mobile phone use at school affects children and young people's mental health?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes, negatively		73.40%	367
2	Yes, positively		2.60%	13
3	No effect		3.20%	16
4	Not sure		20.80%	104
			answered	500
			skipped	0

7. Addictive behaviour can be defined as compulsively performing an activity despite negative or harmful consequences.Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Answer Choices	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Total
Gaming applications encourage addictive behaviour	6.80% 34	3.60% 18	10.00% 50	39.00% 195	40.60% 203	500
Social media applications encourage addictive behaviour	5.60% 28	3.40% 17	5.40% 27	32.20% 161	53.40% 267	500
Messaging applications encourage addictive behaviour	5.60% 28	8.80% 44	20.20% 101	31.60% 158	33.80% 169	500
Mobile phones encourage addictive behaviour	5.40% 27	5.00% 25	13.60% 68	35.00% 175	41.00% 205	500
					answered	500
					skipped	0

8. Do you agree with your child's school mobile phone policy?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		19.40%	97
2	No		22.40%	112
3	I don't know the school policy/ies.		58.20%	291
			answered	500
			skipped	0

9. Do you feel that mobile phone rules at school are enforced effectively?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		7.80%	39
2	No		40.20%	201
3	Not sure		52.00%	260
			answered	500
			skipped	0

Level of Agreement with Petition

10. A recent parent petition in a secondary school requested the school take action in 4 ways. To what extent do you agree with these requests?

Answer Choices	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Total
Banning mobile phones during the school day on school premises, including during lunch and break time	11.80% 59	24.00% 120	11.20% 56	23.40% 117	29.60% 148	500
Implement strict, age-appropriate Wi-Fi filters for educational content only	4.60% 23	4.80% 24	8.80% 44	36.80% 184	45.00% 225	500
Stop teachers using smartphones as part of their lessons for younger pupils	2.60% 13	10.40% 52	17.60% 88	27.20% 136	42.20% 211	500
Encourage parents to delay giving smartphones to their children	3.20% 16	5.60% 28	14.20% 71	29.20% 146	47.80% 239	500
					answered	500
					skipped	0

Comment: (149)
Individual comments not published.

11. With regards to the following risks, where do you feel the greatest harm is caused?

Answer Choices	In school	Outside of school	Both equally	Don't know	Prefer not to say	Response Total
addictive behaviour from apps	1.40% 7	31.80% 159	58.00% 290	7.60% 38	1.20% 6	500
distraction from learning	30.00% 150	6.80% 34	58.80% 294	3.60% 18	0.80% 4	500
cyberbullying	3.60% 18	11.80% 59	78.60% 393	5.40% 27	0.60% 3	500
negative impact on mental health	1.80% 9	8.00% 40	81.40% 407	8.20% 41	0.60% 3	500
access to inappropriate content such as pornography	1.60% 8	24.80% 124	51.60% 258	20.80% 104	1.20% 6	500
grooming	1.00% 5	20.40% 102	59.80% 299	17.60% 88	1.20% 6	500
children's privacy eg children taking photos and videos of each other without consent	23.40% 117	3.80% 19	68.80% 344	3.40% 17	0.60% 3	500
children 'engaging in the real world'	2.00% 10	10.60% 53	71.20% 356	15.40% 77	0.80% 4	500
					answered	500

Questions for parent/carers with children in P6 to S6+

12. Do you have a child / children in P6, P7, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S9?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		76.80%	384
2	No		23.20%	116
			answered	500
			skipped	0

Child specific questions

13. How old is/are your child/ren? (tick all that apply)

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	10		16.93%	65
2	11		21.35%	82
3	12		29.69%	114
4	13		21.35%	82
5	14		22.14%	85
6	15		21.09%	81
7	16		14.32%	55
8	17		9.38%	36
9	18		3.65%	14
10	18+		2.60%	10
			answered	384
			skipped	116

Comment: (11)

Individual comments not published.

14. What year group is/are your child/ren in? (tick all that apply)

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	P6		22.14%	85
2	P7		23.70%	91
3	S1		26.82%	103
4	S2		21.09%	81
5	S3		23.44%	90
6	S4		20.31%	78
7	S5		9.90%	38
8	S6		8.85%	34
9	S9		0.52%	2
			answered	384
			skipped	116

Comment: (10)

    Individual comments not published.

Mobile Phone Ownership

15. Do any of your children own a mobile phone?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		84.90%	326
2	No		15.10%	58
			answered	384
			skipped	116

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16. Do any of your children take a mobile phone to school?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		83.89%	276
2	No		11.25%	37
3	Sometimes		4.86%	16
			answered	329
			skipped	171

17. Have you discussed mobile phone use at school with your child/ren?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes, regularly		63.22%	208
2	Yes, sometimes		32.52%	107
3	No, never		4.26%	14
			answered	329
			skipped	171

18. Have you ever had concerns about your child/ren's using their phone at school?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes, often		17.33%	57
2	Yes, sometimes		33.43%	110
3	No, never		49.24%	162
			answered	329
			skipped	171

19. Has your child/ren ever been disciplined for using their phone in school?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		8.21%	27
2	No		67.78%	223
3	Not sure		23.71%	78
4	Prefer not to say		0.30%	1
			answered	329
			skipped	171

20. Do you have parental controls on your child/ren's mobile phone?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		72.64%	239
2	No		27.36%	90
			answered	329
			skipped	171

21. Which of these parental controls do you use?

Answer Choices	Yes	No	Response Total
Scheduled downtime	47.42% 156	52.58% 173	329
App time limits	41.64% 137	58.36% 192	329
Restricted access to age-appropriate content / apps	72.34% 238	27.66% 91	329
Communication safety (e.g. detecting nude photos or videos before they are sent on your child's device)	44.98% 148	55.02% 181	329
Content and privacy restrictions	69.00% 227	31.00% 102	329
		answered	329
		skipped	171

Future guidance can be more or less prescriptive. We want to know your thoughts.

22. To what extent do you agree with the following guidance options								
Answer Choices	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Prefer not to say	Response Total
No restrictions on mobile phone use	59.80% 299	28.60% 143	4.80% 24	3.00% 15	1.80% 9	2.00% 10	0.00% 0	500
Restrictions during class time - device must be out of sight (in bag/pocket/tray)	5.40% 27	1.80% 9	5.00% 25	25.00% 125	62.00% 310	0.80% 4	0.00% 0	500
Restrictions during class time - device must be handed in to the teacher at the start of the class	7.80% 39	17.60% 88	10.40% 52	19.20% 96	42.60% 213	2.40% 12	0.00% 0	500
Restrictions during class time - device must be switched off	2.80% 14	9.40% 47	10.80% 54	27.20% 136	48.60% 243	1.20% 6	0.00% 0	500
Restrictions across the school day - device must not be used during any part of the school day including break/lunch	14.20% 71	24.00% 120	15.00% 75	13.80% 69	29.60% 148	3.40% 17	0.00% 0	500
Teachers to determine if and when mobile phones can be used but consequences for failure to comply set at school level	14.00% 70	16.60% 83	11.80% 59	31.40% 157	18.40% 92	7.60% 38	0.20% 1	500
Whole school ban - phones are not expected to be brought to school	20.20% 101	23.60% 118	11.00% 55	13.20% 66	29.20% 146	2.40% 12	0.40% 2	500
Whole school ban - phones are not expected to be brought to school but exemptions for some pupils are in place	26.80% 134	33.00% 165	10.80% 54	12.60% 63	12.40% 62	4.20% 21	0.20% 1	500
Fewer restrictions as pupils get older eg ban in primary schools, high levels of restrictions in S1-3, fewer restrictions in S4-6	12.60% 63	20.40% 102	15.00% 75	33.20% 166	11.40% 57	7.40% 37	0.00% 0	500
More restrictions as pupils get older eg no	38.60% 193	37.40% 187	10.80% 54	3.80% 19	2.80% 14	5.80% 29	0.80% 4	500

22. To what extent do you agree with the following guidance options									
restrictions in primary schools, more restrictions in S1-3 and most restrictions in S4-6									
								answered	500
								skipped	0
Comment: (114)									
Individual comments not published.									