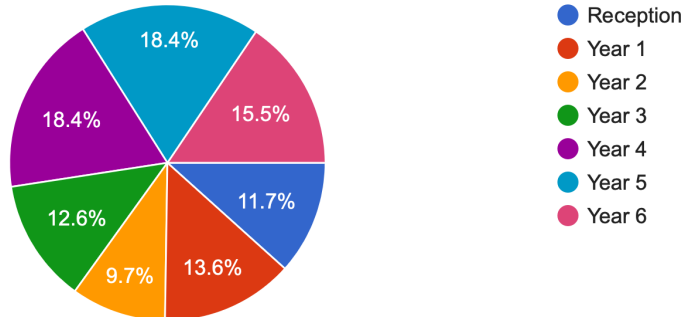


Survey

Question 1:

Which year is your child currently in?

103 responses



Reception: 12

Year 1: 14

Year 2: 10

Year 3: 13

Year 4: 19

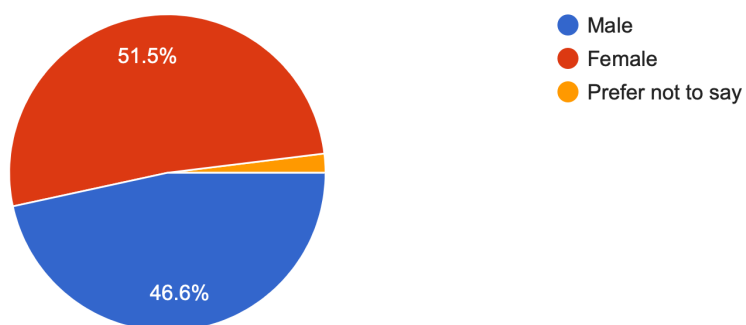
Year 5: 19

Year 6: 16

Question 2:

What is your child's gender?

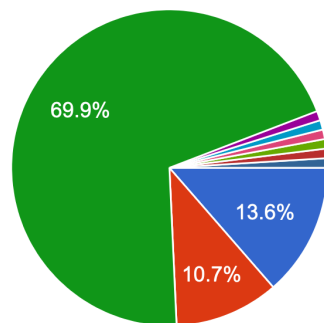
103 responses



Question 3:

Does your child have a mobile phone?

103 responses



- Yes, they have a smartphone with a sim card / all functionality online / apps of choice
- Yes, they have a smartphone without a sim card / limited functionality online / restricted apps
- Yes, they have a non-smart / dumb / basic phone
- No, they do not have a phone
- They have a smartphone, with a sim card, limited functionality and apps downloadable on request
- Parents old phone
- Sometimes play with a spare old phone, but not allowed it on their own
- They have access to a smart phone but it's not their phone and it has app restrictions

▲ 1/2 ▼

72 - No, they do not have a phone

14 - Yes, they have a smartphone with a sim card / all functionality online / apps of choice

11 - Yes, they have a smartphone without a sim card / limited functionality online / restricted apps

1 - Parents old phone

1 - They have access to a smart phone but it's not their phone and it has app restrictions

1 - They have a smartphone, with a sim card, limited functionality and apps downloadable on request

1 - She has an old handset of mine, can take photos and listen to music. No internet access/no tel calls or texting

1 - Has smart phone & sim but it's restricted to apps call ect

1 - Sometimes play with a spare old phone, but not allowed it on their own

All functionality/ apps of choice:

Reception: -

Year 1: -

Year 2: -

Year 3: -

Year 4: 1

Year 5: 4

Year 6: 9

Limited functionality/ restricted apps:

Reception: -

Year 1: -

Year 2: -

Year 3: 1

Year 4: 5

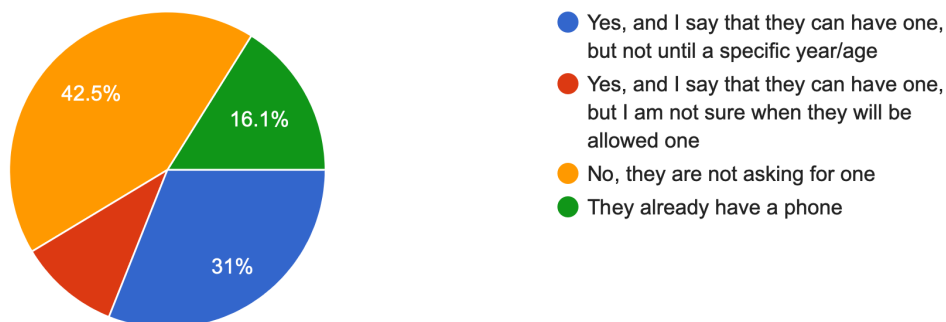
Year 5: 6

Year 6: 5

Question 4:

If your child does not have a mobile phone, are they asking you to get them one now or in the future?

87 responses



This was an optional question so only 86 responses

I have looked through the responses and children start asking from as young as Year 1

Question 5:

If your child **does not** currently have a mobile phone, when do you expect to get them one?

74 responses

This was an optional question so only 73 responses

20 - 'Year 6'

10 - 'Secondary School'

8 - '11/ before starting secondary school'

6 - 'Year 6/7'

4 - 'Year 7'

3 - 'Year 6/7 when likely to start walking places without an adult'

3 - 'When starting secondary school'

2 - 'Age 10'

2 - '10th birthday as per older sibling'

2 - 'I'm not sure'

1 - 'Year 6 but I don't want to'

1 - 'Perhaps at secondary school. Not at primary school. I can't see a need for one this young.'

1 - 'When a child's brain is emotionally developed enough to handle one- 16-18'

1 - 'beginning of year 7 (when go to secondary school) not a minute before!'

1 - 'hopefully not until they go to secondary school'

1 - 'Year 7 and it won't be a full 'smartphone'

1 - 'Year 6 at earliest but will try and hold off as long as possible'

1 - 'Christmas of Year 6'

1 - 'I don't see the need until secondary school'

Question 6:

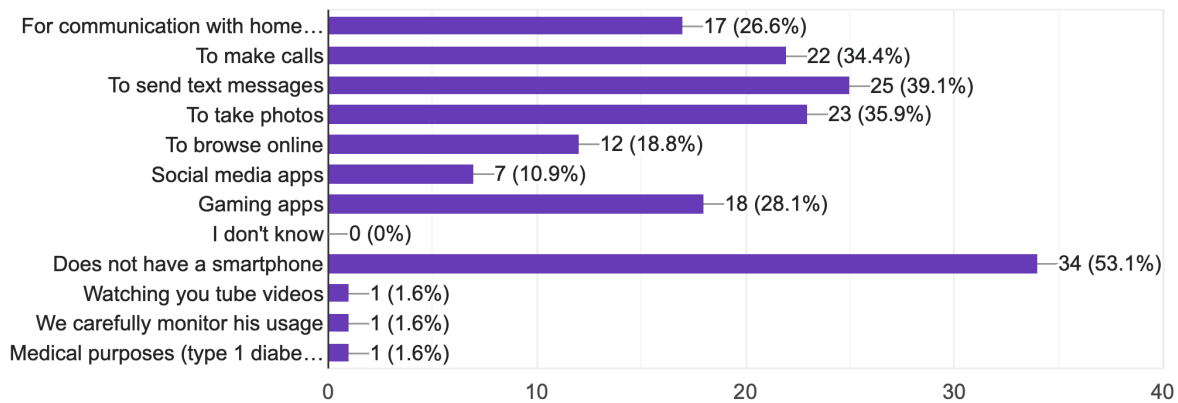
If your child **does** own a smartphone, what are they using it for? Please select all that apply

[Hide options](#) ^

- For communication with home when walking to/from school
- To make calls
- To send text messages
- To take photos
- To browse online
- Social media apps
- Gaming apps
- I don't know
- Does not have a smartphone

If your child does own a smartphone, what are they using it for? Please select all that apply

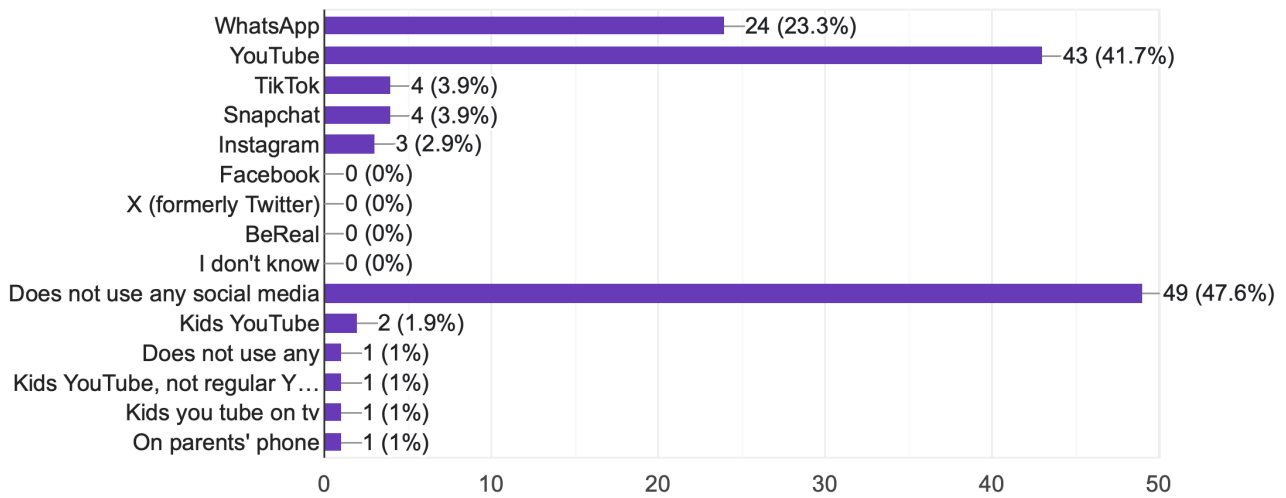
64 responses



Question 7:

Does your child use any of these social media apps? Please select all that apply

103 responses

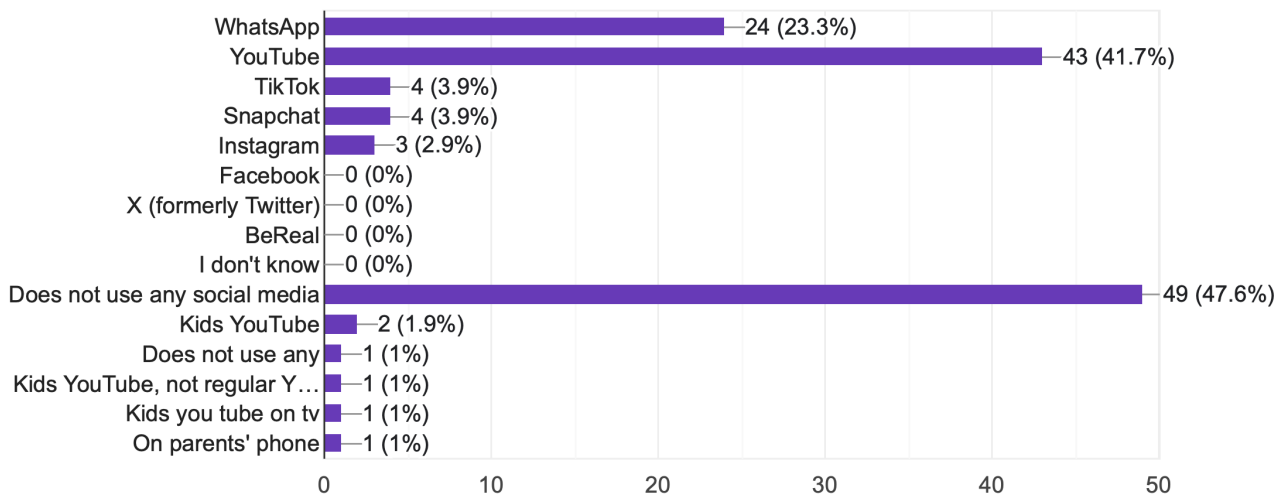


- 24 - Whatsapp
- 43 - Youtube
- 4 - Kids Youtube
- 4 - TikTok
- 4 - Snapchat
- 3 - Instagram

Question 8:

Does your child use any of these social media apps? Please select all that apply

103 responses



Question 9:

Research has shown that children respond positively to smartphone restrictions if they know they are not in the minority and are therefore not 'missing out'. Societal pressure and anxiety are significantly reduced as a result, but this does rely on a wider community effort being made.

A recent example of this from a town in Ireland can be read about here: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jun/03/much-easier-to-say-no-irish-town-unites-in-smartphone-ban-for-young-children>

Would you be supportive of a voluntary pact for parents to delay smartphones and/or social media and withhold them from children - at home, in school, everywhere - **for the next year?**

23 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 11**

18 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 16 or older**

13 - I would consider a '**no social media**' pact **only**

10 - Not sure – but **interested to find out more**

9 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **for the next year**

7 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 12**

6 - **No**, my child already has a smartphone/social media and I'm happy with that

6 - **I don't know**

4 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 14**

2 - Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 13**

1 - Would **definitely consider** but not sure on age

1 - **No**, it is up to parents (not school/group) to decide what is right and when for their child, they are all individuals.

1 - Y5 is too late, lots of the class already have phones and use social media.

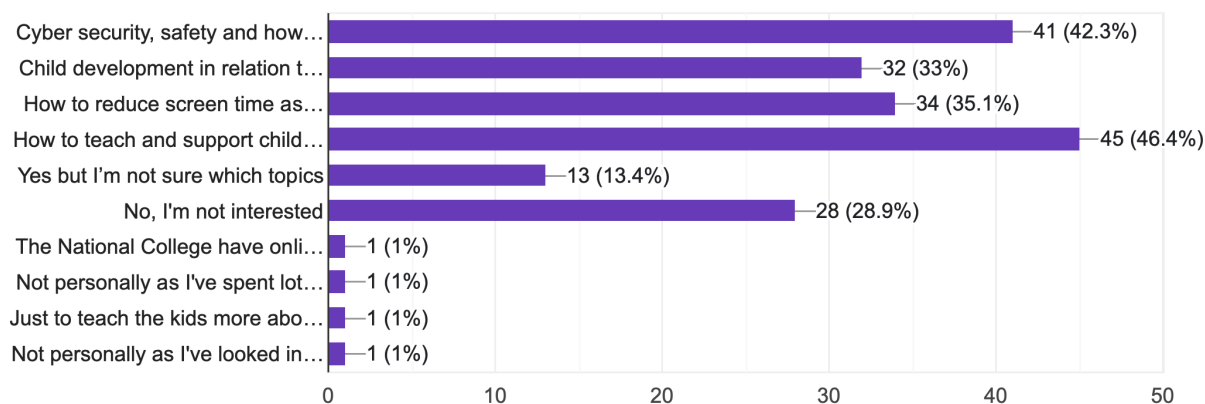
1 - **I don't want to be part of a pact** but as mentioned above my child will have phone at age 11

1 - **No**, I feel like children should have access but should be informed of risk and exposed. Education is key - its like driving a car. Yes it can be dangerous but not in the right hands.

Question 10:

Would you be interested in additional support for parents on this topic? For example, further workshops / shared learning. Please select all that apply

97 responses



The full comments missed off the chart:

1- Not personally as I've looked in to it lots with older child but think it's a great idea

1- Not personally as I've spent lots of time doing this myself for older children, but think it's a great idea for families of younger children.

1- Just to teach the kids more about safety

69 out of 96 want additional support on this topic either for parents/ children or both.

Question 11:

Do you have any thoughts or comments relating to children and mobile phone use, whether specific to your family, or generally? Please add your comments here.

(If you have other children at different schools, and it's relevant to your views or experiences with mobile phones, please state their gender and year group here as well.)

28 responses:

Not sure why phones are allowed in the later year groups at school - if there was no option to take them in, it would support parents in terms of delaying getting one. Also not sure what the curriculum covers in this respect but I feel Year 6 should be given well rounded guidance on Social Media dos and don'ts, dangers to spot and the tricky nuances surrounding posting things/using WhatsApp etc. My daughter won't be allowed social media until she's 14 (or older) but I think starting in primary school discussions about the potential pitfalls, especially for girls, can only be a good thing. I'm so pleased school are looking into this, now we have concrete evidence to back things up re smartphone use and young people.

I think primary school children are too young to use phones and social media appropriately and lack the maturity to always understand their own actions when sending messages. My child has been contacted via my WhatsApp by their friends and I've been added to groups on their behalf, they've been sent videos from tiktok etc, even going back to being in Y3,

some of videos give me the impression that not all parents check phones, although I'm pretty sure from the child's point of view it's all very innocent.

I would prefer children not to have mobile phones/ social media access at primary school and would be in support of this for my child in Y1, I think it is too late for my Y5 child as lots of children in class already have them. A phone from Y7 onwards is useful when children are making their own way to and from school and heading out with friends and I feel safer that my Y7 daughter has one and can always contact us if needed so I would not consider this pact after Y7 now. However if I was asked about this pact a few years ago when my family were younger I would have been very interested. My eldest has had phone since end of year 6 and it is nice to be able to keep in touch with primary school friends when heading off to different secondary schools. I think phones with restrictions in place can work well and making sure children understand what is and isn't acceptable. Phones can be positive for older children with allowing them a new level of independence, making arrangements to meet friends etc... I think educating children about social media, not allowing your children to use social media and talking to them regularly about their phone use is more helpful than a full phone ban at this point. My Y7 daughter hasn't had problems with owning a phone but only uses what's app and isn't allowed any other social media, plus she talks to us a lot about who said what, when etc... I doubt I would feel as okay about it if she was less of a talker. Banning phones from Y7 would be difficult because you have apps used by secondary schools for homework, timetables etc... In an ideal world no children would have mobile phones but unless all parents are going to ban them it's probably more helpful to educate children and parents about best use, parental controls etc...

It's definitely a huge concern as a parent.

Due to split parent family the need for the phone arose earlier than anticipated but allows my child to contact myself or her father when she needs to to ensure she has freedom to talk to both parents whenever she chooses. She has been given training and support on how to use it safely and what to report straight away, it's also checked daily and monitored for any app usage outside of what we allow. I believe that mobile phones are part of society now and children need to be educated on how to use these appropriately and more for contacting purposes rather than using them for online activities or apps.

I personally don't agree with smart phones use as a child, however, once going to high school, in this day and age, safety becomes more priority than use of smart phone and media. Limitations can be used, as they were with my eldest son, however, in an age of child abductions, too many cars on the road, bullies. the use of a mobile phone not only gives the child a sense of support and safety but also gives parents the ability to let go and let them grow independence.

Phones, technology, social media and digital developments are a way of the world today (whether liked or not) which is here to stay. It's unrealistic to think children won't be aware of or affected by it and they can always learn things through others/tv news channels etc even if they don't have their own access. Rather than restrict access/prohibit use it is more important to educate children how to use these types of things responsibly in an age appropriate way, and reduce the level of any risk by putting appropriate controls/mitigations in place e.g restrictive access/passwords etc where necessary.

I feel strongly that this survey and underlying messages are being pushed by the school when it is a parental decision and not something that school should be 'pushing'. Some children have mobile phones in split families and I am very concerned about how this might affect some parents. This is a choice for individuals and not a small group of parents to push this idea onto others.

My opinion is slightly different as my son has to have a mobile phone with him at all times to keep him alive. I do agree with the no social media pact though. Although he is only on what's app at the moment. I feel that this could cause a few problems for him as it will make him before even more different to the rest of the class.

It's a constant struggle with my teen boys (year 8 and 10) to monitor/restrict their use. They are allowed no more than an hour a day on their screens and they are in a minority of their friends, most of whom have unlimited access. None of my 3 children had them in primary school, I'm totally against that.

Cyber bullying main concern. Viewing inappropriate content another concern

We were reluctant for my elder daughter to have a smartphone but succumbed to the peer pressure. We have family controls so we can restrict time on the phone and monitor usage. Can also restrict apps she uses. We still find she spends too much time messaging friends and so would welcome a ban on under 16s.

I only see the need for a mobile phone for safety and I don't support the use of social media at such a young age or encourage the use of mobiles until actually necessary. Peer pressure seems to be the reason why the phones are being asked for.

Each family has different views, rules and circumstances that should be respected. We have older children who have phones and social media accounts. Our youngest will have a phone when we see fit as the others did and we will have restrictions in place on certain platforms.

Such an important topic!

The later the better for children owning smart phones - it alters their behaviour, vulnerable online and it brings fall outs with friends home. Speaking from experience! I have now removed the phone!

Technology forms a huge part of the future and I feel there are many benefits to smart phones, I acknowledge the danger of social media for children. However I'm a firm believer of informed access and not making a huge thing of these things otherwise children crave it more.

It feels a long way off for me as our children are only 3 and 5 but I'm keen to make sure I'm as informed as I can be

I am still trying to understand what is best for my children re mobile phone use. I am really keen to learn from other parents. I hope there is the option to do so, rather than the group being divisive and closed to other opinions and experiences.

We have restrictions and time limits on our children's devices and a mutual respect for each other when it comes to usage. We have set boundaries and can access the phone to review what they have been watching or playing on.

Split parents do being able to communicate directly with my child is important but no use of social media apart from YouTube and all restricted. Children need to learn cyber bullying and the negative consequences

It would be beneficial if all parents kept a careful watch on their child's phone usage if they are allowing child access to YouTube, WhatsApp etc. limiting time on it is important too

We set boundaries and downtime, limit app use so the phone doesn't interfere with sleep but can be a challenge to prioritise homework over phone, gaming

I think it's tricky as each parent has different rules in the home eg bedtime, mealtime etc so easy to enforce at school but not really at home.

I really hope by the time she is old enough, society as a whole will have found ways to make social media less damaging for young people.

Smartphone free childhood all the way!

Is phone use separate to iPad use? Because there are some fab educational games and I wouldn't support a ban of all technology.

Every family situation is different. My son has a phone to contact his dad who doesn't live with us .

Question 12:

How would you like to be involved/ updated on this movement? (More information to follow once the mailing list is up and running)

44 - I am supportive of this voluntary parent pact and would like a monthly email update on how many others have signed the pact

36 - I'm not sure

10 - I am not supportive of this pact

6 - I am supportive of this voluntary parent pact and would like to be part of the working group of parents involved in raising awareness

1 - Happy to receive info/industry guidance but capable of making my own decisions as to what is appropriate for my own child

1 - I think my child is still quite young so not sure I'm the best person to be fully involved now but keen to hear how this works with email updates

1 - Empathise with concerns but can't really see how it could work

1 - It sounds like a good idea but I think that ship has sailed for us.

1 - I am supportive, however time is very limited.

1 - Too late for a parent pact for Y5 unfortunately but more education for children and parents is definitely needed.

1 - I cannot accept a pact that would mean my child would then not be able to contact me when she needs support from me as a parent.

Question 13:

How would you like to be involved?

43 people are supportive and want monthly emails

10 people want to be involved in a working whatsapp group

35 people are not sure how they want to be updated

3 out of 103 feel it's 'too late'/ 'empathise with concerns but can't really see how it would work'

1 is 'Happy to receive info/industry guidance but capable of making my own decisions as to what is appropriate for my own child'

11 out of 103 responses are not supportive of this pact

Summary

103 parents have responded.

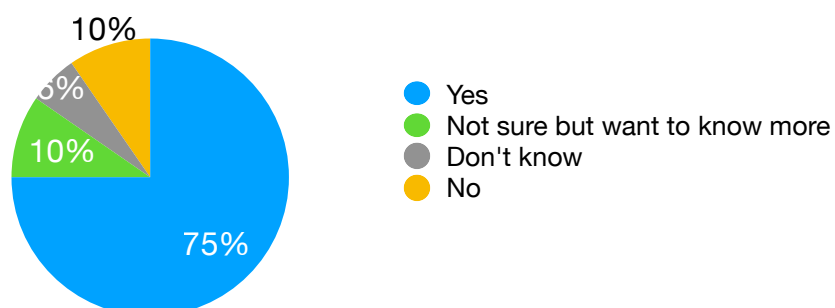
When asked if they would be supportive of a voluntary pact for parents to delay smartphones and/or social media and withhold them from children,

78 people said yes

10 people said they were 'not sure but wanted to know more'

6 people said they 'don't know'

9 people said no with varying reasons (see above)



68 out of 96 who responded want additional support on this topic either for parents/ children or both. E-learning and workshops will be arranged.

When asked if they would be supportive of a voluntary pact for parents to delay smartphones and/ or social media and withhold them from children - at home, in school, everywhere,

23 people said 'Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 11**'

18 people said 'Yes, I would consider a 'no smartphone or social media' pact **until they are 16 or older**'

13 people said 'I would consider a **'no social media' pact only**'

10 people said 'Not sure – but **interested to find out more**'

Based on the most popular responses, we have decided to follow both Smartphone Free Childhood and Delay Smartphone's recommendation to pledge to delay smartphones until age 14.

As stated, this is a voluntary pact, simply designed to eliminate the pressure to give children smartphones.