

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Anonymous 1**

To: Scrutiny Communications <[Scrutiny@gov.je](mailto:Scrutiny@gov.je)>

Subject: Smartphones in school

Dear Scrutiny panel

I hope you are well and had a lovely week.

I would like the scrutiny panel to consider my views in terms of smart phones in schools please. This is anonymous please.

My husband and I are emailing as concerned parents, after seeing first hand how phones change a child so severely .. even if they don't own one themselves, just being in a playground or lunch hall with them around them- soul destroying.

The constant feeling that you are being videoed at anytime, being so self aware, even in school. Its goes from a safe space to a overstimulated/ anxious space. Everyone is filming everyone at the moment.

Children are regularly shown photos of inappropriate images ( it doesn't matter if the school has these apps barred- they are screen shots) and the child is so effected by them they get so low.

They don't open up to their parents so they keep it to themselves and it eats them up. They don't have a phone. This all happened because the school allowed phones in school/in pockets.

We wondered if you had time if you could possibly watch the new documentary ch4 "Swiped- the school that banned mobile phones". Please.

A wealth of information - it's not about parent shaming, just supporting and educating.

I have a child in senior school and a child who will be choosing senior school and it blows my mind that Jersey still doesn't have a law for no phones at school ( at least until 14yrs old?) or no social media until 16yrs old like Australia.

Its such a simple, major step. I pray this program is watched by people in power. So they can make choices knowing what's in this documentary/experiment.

If you can Help the parents say "no" by making it law. I have a child who's in a prep school where no one has a phone yet, and she has said she doesn't want a phone, if we send her to a school where many have phones I know she will be begging for one. FOMO

Some say “just don’t get your child a phone”.. but when schools allow phones within school, it makes it extremely hard, as your child then asks for a phone, simply to be included.

She is also exposed to the other phones recording her/ exclusion/ content.

My child was in a show recently and she was so shocked backstage as all the children had a phone. The lovely staff invited her to a “show-party” to celebrate all their hard work on the show.. and she told me she wouldn't go because the kids will all be on phones again-so there’s no point... she was 9 years old. Its such a grown up view, and so sad too! I cant send her to a school where life is like this too.

If all schools legally had to say no phones or the island said no social media under 15yr (like a Netflix movie certificate).. parents would also be stronger to say “no you don’t need it.”

The next wave of teens starting senior school would be so different. Make it normal to not have a phone.

Please watch the show if you get a chance.

Thank you so much for your time.

Anon