



GPETNS PARENTS PACT: SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA USE (2024)

If you opt into this Pact you agree:

- (1) not to buy your child their own smartphone**
- (2) not to allow your child to access their own social media account from any device**

while in primary school.

What the pact is about

What the pact is not about

Choice

Parents often feel like they have to buy their child their own smartphone, despite concerns, just because other children have one. This Pact seeks to give parents in this school a chance to say no to that pressure, while the kids are very young.

Judgement

This is a pact, not a ban. Parents can agree to participate in this Pact if it works for them. There is no judgment of any parent for opting out of the Pact and it is recognised some parents may have good reasons to do so.

Appropriate Supervision

Getting the internet out of children's pockets and into shared family spaces. There is no restriction in this Pact on access to shared devices, which tend to be supervised in an open shared family space.

"Dumb phones"

that only access phone calls and SMS/text messages. These can be owned by the children and used for arranging picks ups, drop offs, extra-curricular activities and childcare without any need to opt out of this Pact.

Education

As parents who have taken up this Pact we commit to educating ourselves and the children about the wonders and benefits of modern technology as well as the potential dangers and downsides.

Ownership of a games consoles or tablet

Parents can discuss if they want to extend the pact to sole ownership/use of a tablet, for example, on a per class basis, separate to this Pact.

Consultation

The PTA will consult parents on this Pact on an annual basis recognising that technology evolves and so do the requirements of the schoolchildren. Parents are encouraged to talk about the Pact on a per class basis and discuss what works for them.

Discouraging access to technology

We encourage computer literacy and the amazing access to learning that smart devices can bring with them when used wisely; but we also recognise that scrolling is not coding.