

# BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

CEO/Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

Head of School: Mr P Houghton

Email: [BAP.enquiries@abbeyacademies.co.uk](mailto:BAP.enquiries@abbeyacademies.co.uk)

Abbey Road  
Bourne

Tel: 01778 422163

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## ***PURCHASING A SMART PHONE FOR A CHILD?***

The Local Authority has asked us to share the information below regarding purchasing a smartphone for children:

*Is it the right time to get my child a Smart phone? This is something we are asked a lot especially by primary school parents. A new film by the charity Nip in the Bud discusses the hidden dangers of social media and smartphone use among children. The film provides insights from children, headteachers and doctors, shedding light on the everyday harm caused by digital platforms. If you are considering getting your child a phone, we would urge you to watch the film here*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zhfd0jW7iY&t=605s>

Key facts:

- 90% of 11-year-olds own a smartphone, and most under 13s have a social media profile.
- 90% of girls and 50% of boys have received explicit pictures or videos they didn't want to see.
- 80% of teenage girls are pressured to provide sexual images of themselves.
- 1 in 5 children have been bullied online. Among them, 24% self-harm and 22% change their appearance due to bullying. Only 13% delete the app where they are bullied.
- Boys as young as 13 have been targeted for sextortion scams.
- MRI scans show screen time reduces brain areas responsible for visual processing, empathy, attention, memory and early reading skills.
- Psychologists, headteachers and GPs are advocating for stricter guidelines: no smartphones until age 14, no social media until age 16

You can read more information here including options to consider around technology prior to purchasing smartphones for children.

[Smartphones and social media fact sheet | Nip in the Bud | Free Downloadable Fact Sheet](#)

Kind regards



Mr P Houghton  
Head of School