

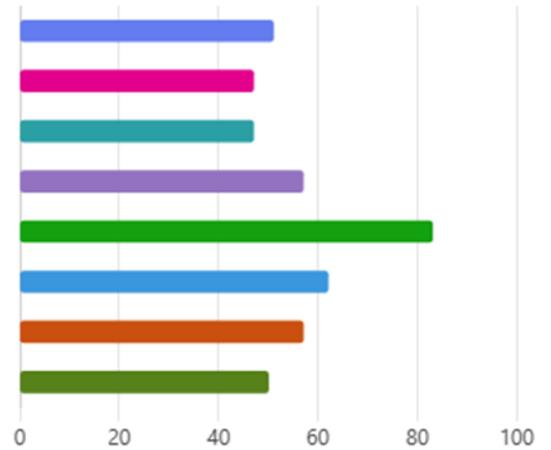
# Smartphones and their impact on children and young people

## Survey Results

Number of responses: 466

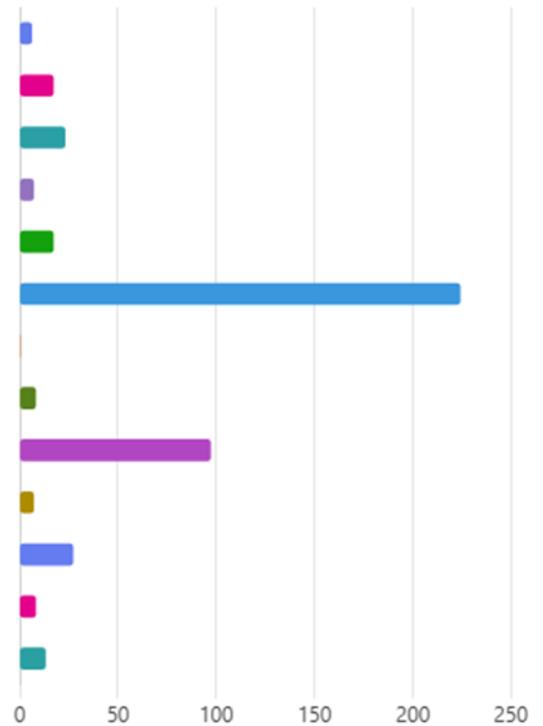
### 2. Year group of school-age child (please complete a separate survey for each child)

● Year 1	51
● Year 2	47
● Year 3	47
● Year 4	57
● Year 5	83
● Year 6	62
● Year 7	57
● Year 8	50



### 3. School attended

● Acomb First School	6
● Beaufront First School	17
● Broomhaugh First School	23
● Chollerton First School	7
● Corbridge First School	17
● Hexham Middle School	224
● Hexham Priory School	0
● Humshaugh First School	8
● Sele First School	97
● Slaley First School	7
● St Joseph's Middle School	27
● St Mary's First School	8
● Whitley Chapel First School	13



4. Does your child have their own smartphone currently?

● Yes	188
● No	272

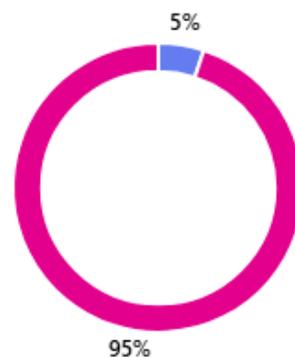


5. If you answered 'yes', please provide your reason(s) for this.

In summary: The predominant reason given was safety and the ability for children and parents to be able to contact each other when necessary. Several respondents referenced the tracking function of smartphones. Other reasons given were: to socialise with friends; peer pressure/expectations/to avoid children feeling left out; to use for gaming and entertainment; for doing homework; for practical reasons such as diabetes management, using QR codes to use the school bus service, or show tickets, etc.

6. Does your child have their own non-smartphone currently (i.e. one without internet access)?

● Yes	23
● No	432

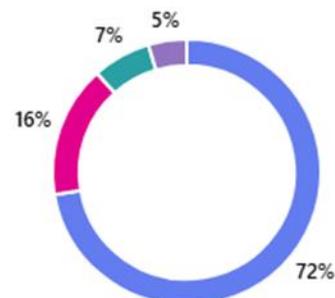


7. If you answered 'yes', please provide your reason(s) for this.

In summary: The predominant reason given was for parents and their children to be able to contact each other when necessary. Non-smartphones were opted for over smartphones as they were understood to give the functionality required without the perceived problematic features associated with access to smartphones at an early age.

8. Would you welcome this possible stance by first and middle schools: Encouraging parents to support a smartphone-free childhood by not giving their child a smartphone before they move to high school in year 9, with those already owning one not bringing it into school, or at least handing it in for safekeeping each day.

● Yes fully	329
● Yes in principle but with some reservations	73
● No, because of some reservations	32
● No in principle	21



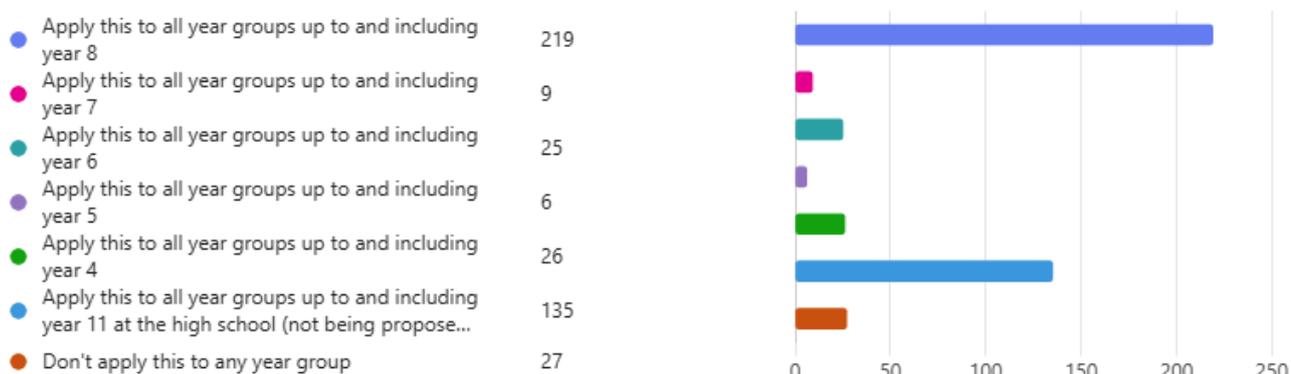
9. If you answered *Yes in principle but with some reservations* please specify these reservations.

In summary: The predominant reason given was safety and the ability for children and parents to be able to contact each other in an emergency, and for parents to be able to track their child’s movements. Other reasons mentioned were: some smartphone functionality is useful for children to have; children who have a smartphone currently would find it difficult to transition away from this; educating children in the safe use of smartphones with responsible parental control may be better than no access at all.

10. If you answered *No, because of some reservations* please specify these reservations.

In summary: The predominant reason given was safety and being able to keep in contact as needed, particularly in an emergency, and to be able to track movement.

11. If following this consultation the decision was taken to implement the suggested stance, which of the following would be your preferred way forward from September 2025:



12. Please share any other comments you may have regarding this proposal

The vast majority of comments were in favour and share the concerns expressed in the letter. Many parents would welcome support to resist the peer pressure that comes with wanting to avoid your child being the odd one out. It was noted that for those who already have a smartphone, it would be difficult to transition away from this, which for many was a cause for regret. Many commented on valuing the ability to be able to contact or be contacted, and to track, but are concerned about social media and harmful online content. Several commented that it is up to parents to monitor and control usage but concern was expressed about peer use in friendship groups where such control is not exercised.

The vast majority supported schools themselves being smartphone free although some seemed to think this was the extent of the proposal and did not fully appreciate that this is largely the case in schools anyway; relating to this, a few were against in-school safekeeping; others, for unauthorised in-school use, advocated a stronger deterrent than return at the end of the day.

Several parents highlighted an apparent contradiction between the proposal and some schools’ expectation that homework is done online including via apps that are actively encouraged. It was also noted that use of school transport appeared to require a smartphone to show a QR code. Several comments noted a need to work with technology and emphasised the importance of schools educating children on safe usage, particularly around social media, group chats and harmful content.