



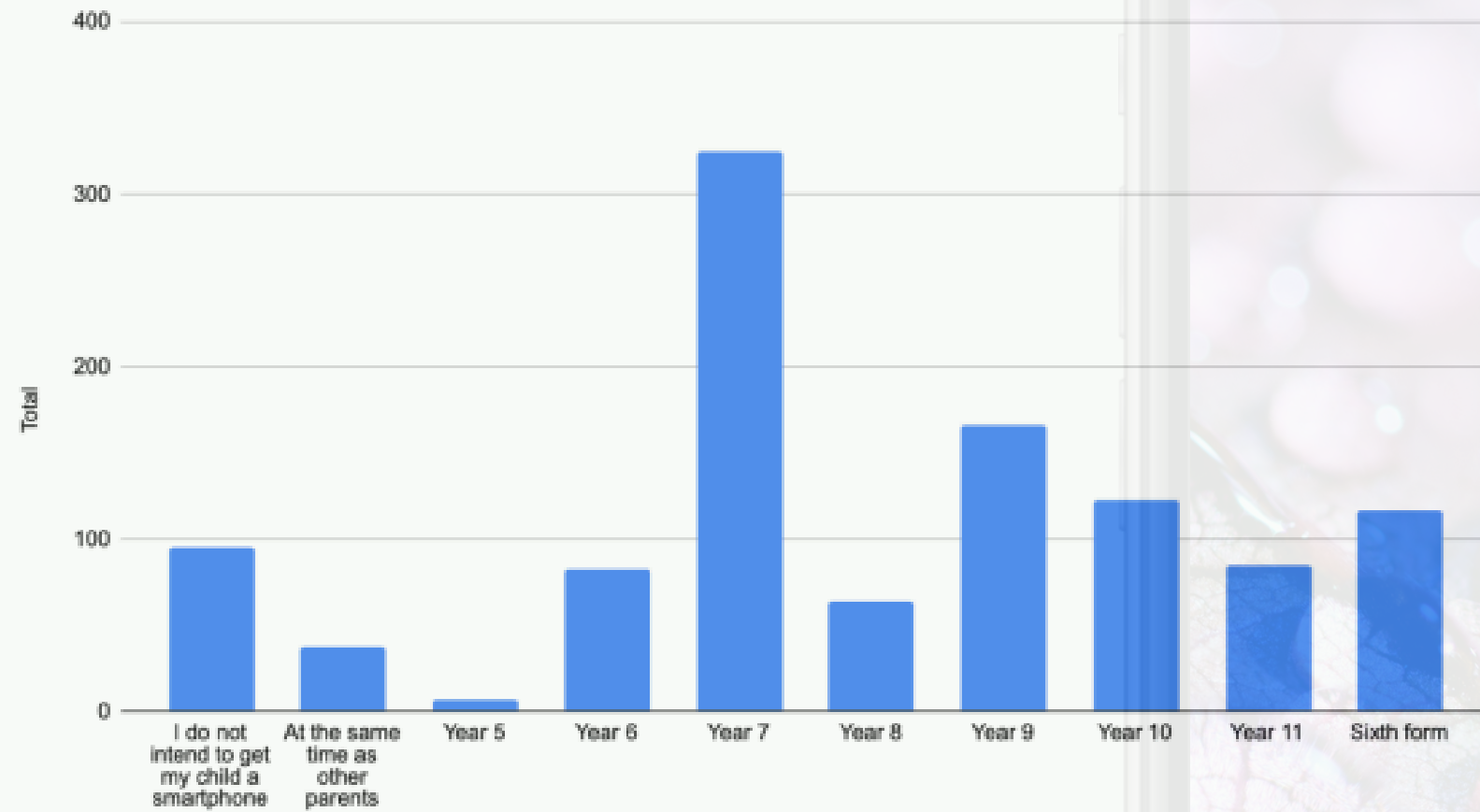
Smart Phone Free School

Weeke Primary School
Update December 2024

What do we know?

When do you expect to give your child a smartphone?

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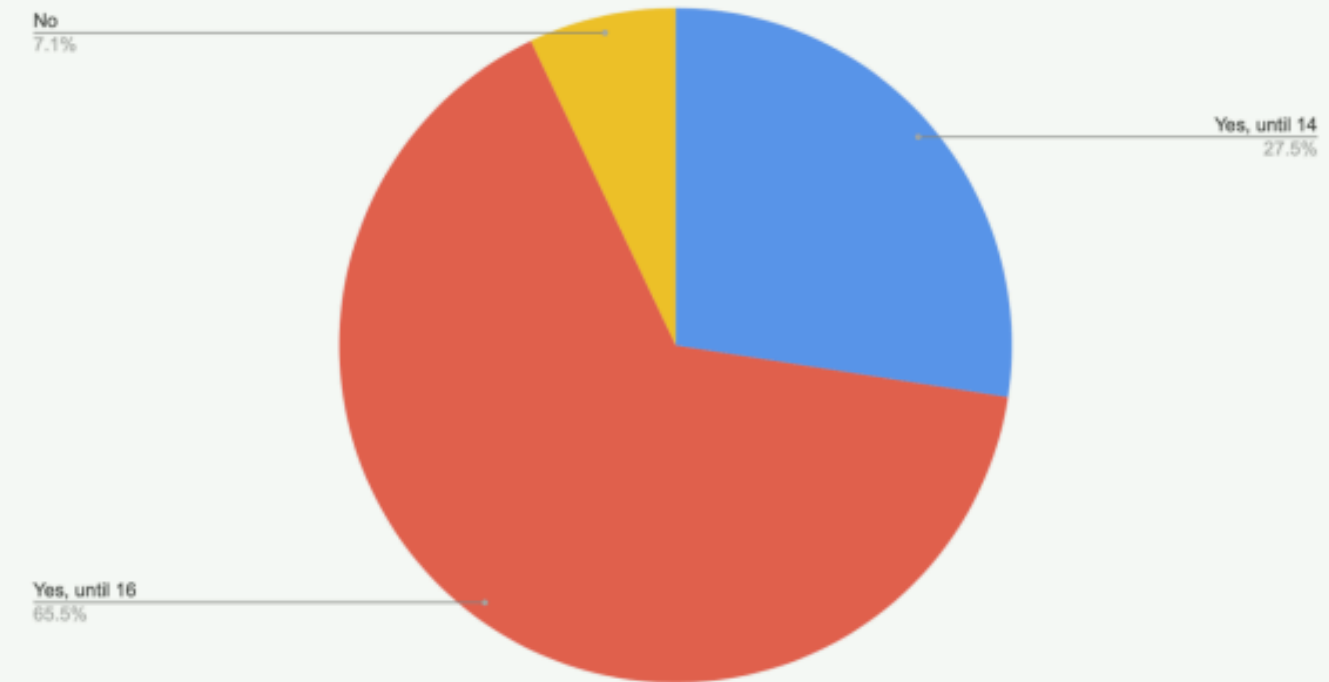
If you knew other parents were delaying giving their children smartphones, would you consider doing the same?

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Information from the parent survey in September 2024

- Of the 11 Primary Schools, we actually had 19 schools respond to the survey.
- 1204 responses from parents were received

Who is being affected?



WE HAVE PULLED TOGETHER NOT ONLY NATIONAL DATA BUT ALSO OUR OWN DATA.

This data not only supports the need to reduce children's unsupervised access to SmartPhones but also protect them from the risk of harm.

Social media and smartphone use by children - In February 2024, Ofcom, the online safety regulator, reported that:

- 99% of children spend time online.
- nine in 10 children own a mobile phone by the time they reach the age of 11.
- three-quarters of social media users aged between eight and 17 have their own account or profile on at least one of the large platforms.
- despite most platforms having a minimum age of 13, six in 10 children aged 8 to 12 who use them are signed up with their own profile.
- almost three-quarters of teenagers between age 13 and 17 have encountered one or more potential harms online.
- three in five secondary school-aged children have been contacted online in a way that potentially made them feel uncomfortable.
- there is a “blurred boundary between the lives children lead online and the ‘real world’”.



IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS, LEADERS AND STAFF AT WEEKE HAVE HAD TO SUPPORT AND INTERVENE WITH:

- Unkind and potentially bullying messaging across platforms including WhatsApp and SnapChat.
- Inappropriate imagery being shared amongst peers.
- Cross KS2 and KS3 challenges where SmartPhones have been used negatively.
- Police involvement as a result of the misuse of technology with both SmartPhones and Games Consoles.

Can we
make a
change?



THE LONG TERM ANSWER IS - YES

We know that from the research, our own understanding of our school and the understanding of the children in modern society that a change as significant as this will take time. As a Primary School, we want to start this change now. This is why we will be moving to a fully Smart Phone Free School for children.

THE SHORT TERM ANSWER SHOULD ALSO BE - YES

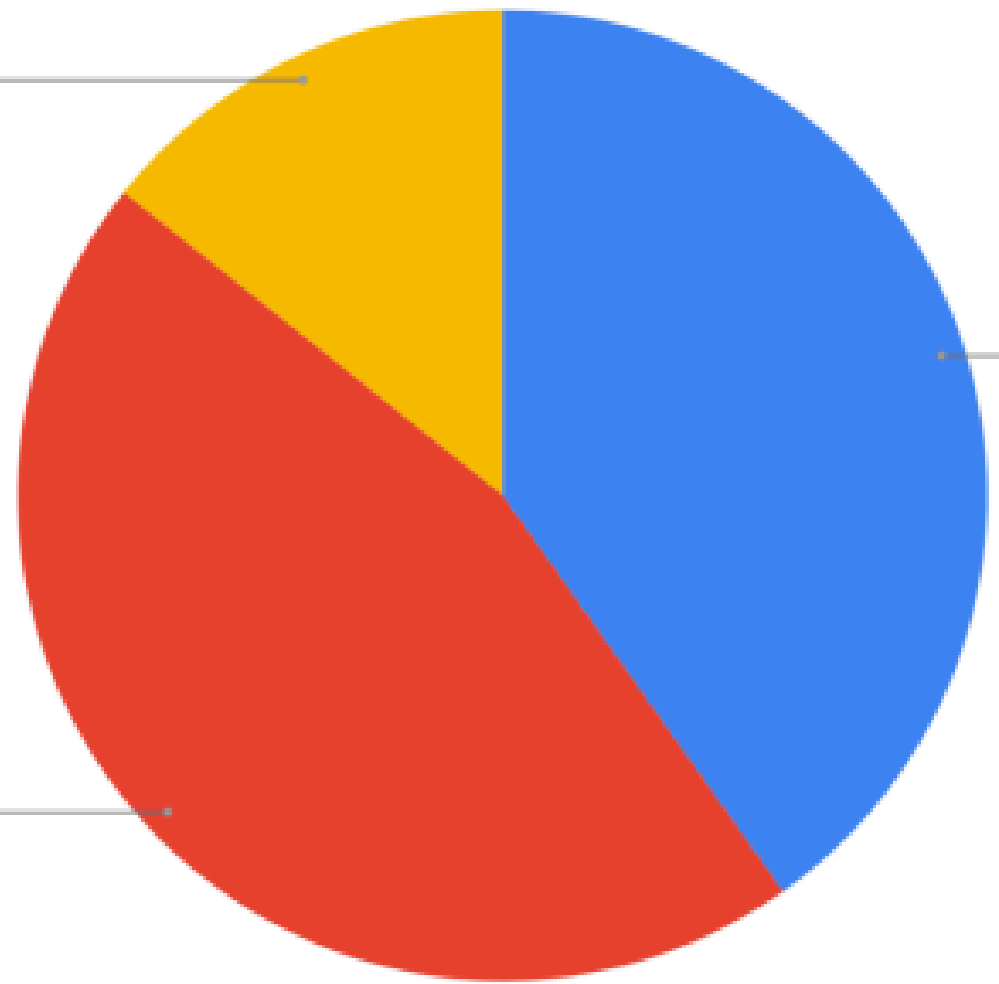
Parenting has many challenges but now is such a positive time to give our young children alternatives to Smart Phones. We understand and believe children of a Primary age do not need a phone at all.

We have also had confirmed from our feeder secondaries that smartphones are not required in secondary school.

If you knew other parents were delaying giving their children smartphones, would you consider doing the same?

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No
14.3%



Yes, until 14
40.2%

Yes, until 16
45.5%

You have the support of the schools - Headteachers across Winchester are working together.

There are a range of resources which we will share that support parents when talking and working with their children.

At Weeke we are reviewing our computing curriculum and have identified the need to further educate our children in online safety and the alternatives to technology

As a parent am I the only one?

- 86% of parents responded to delaying Smart Phone until 14 years+
- 93% of parents would delay social media if they knew other parents were

WHAT NEXT?

- The school has made the decision to become fully Smart Phone Free for children by September 2025. No child will be able to bring a Smart Phone onto the school site.
- As a school we will be sharing our new policy associated with Smart Phones and other technology in the Spring Term
- We will be hosting a series of workshops for parents who may need guidance and support in navigating the technological world and it's alternatives with their children.
- Please, as parents consider the alternatives - if you still believe your child needs a phone, use some of the links available on this presentation.

We want to work with families to support, educate and guide.





HOW CAN I HELP?

- Work with the school.
- Talk to your child. We regularly talk to the children about technology and forms of media, to support them in understanding the benefits, alternatives and risks.
- Talk to other parents with children of a similar age. A community of parents can be an extremely supportive and developmental group.
- Understand that for some children this is going to be a difficult change (particularly those with siblings).
- Join groups or networks that support and help you with navigating this with your child.
- Ask questions. We have a number of staff with experience not only professionally but as parents who can help.



How is school going to help?

- We will support, educate and guide you (if you need it).
- We will work in collaboration to ensure the change is as successful as possible.
- We will adapt and develop our curriculum to support a smart phone free school childhood.
- We will communicate with you in a timely manner to share information and development.
- We will listen, adapt and respond.
- We will continue to focus on what is important - your child's development and capacity to thrive and be successful.
- We will support individual children where technology has impacted their well-being, mental health and safeguarding.

WHAT IF I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

The best way is to talk, collaborate and share thoughts.

None of this change should be a surprise to parents and families. The school wants to give you as much information as possible.

- 1. Talk to Mr Kirkham on the school gate or at other events.**
- 2. Attend workshops linked to technology and the theme of Smart Phone Free.**
- 3. Visit known websites that can support, guide and educate.**
- 4. When communication from the school is shared please read, understand and share.**



TIMEFRAME FOR CHANGE

- **Jan-Feb 2025** - Communication regarding policy on technology and smart phones will be shared with parents.
- **Feb 2025** - Year 5 & 6 workshop for children led by: <https://www.papayaparents.com/solutions>
- **March-Apr 2025** - Workshops for parents will be held in school or online.
- **May-July 2025** - Final preparations for a Smart Phone Free School for children will be made and communicated
- **September 2025** - Weeke Primary will be a fully Smart Phone Free School for children.



These sites are written to support parents and should be viewed by the parent not necessarily the child.



RESOURCES TO HELP PARENTS



internet
matters.org



[SmartPhoneFreeChildhood Website](#)

[Alternatives to SmartPhone for your child](#)



parentzone



PAPAYA
Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents



IWF
Internet
Watch
Foundation

[Our own school Website with a range of resources](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP CHILDREN

[Google - Interland Interactive online safety game](#)

[Scottish website - alternative activities to the SmartPhone](#)



QUERIES OR QUESTIONS



Weeke Primary School - SFC
WhatsApp group



[Join the Weeke SFC
WhatsApp group.
https://chat.whatsapp.c
om/J5RS4mP6hIMJiW
emQ78wXx](https://chat.whatsapp.com/J5RS4mP6hIMJiWemQ78wXx)



Mr Kirkham is leading
on Smart Phone Free
and would be happy to
talk to you.



[Clare Fernyhough](#)
[Co-founder & Schools](#)
[Lead of SPFC](#)

 **SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

[Join 80k+ people who
have already signed the
parent pact.](#)

[Help to support your
child and the community
to take collective action
in delaying Smart
Phones](#)



**Thank you for taking the time to watch.
We appreciate the continued support from
our school community.**