

Online Safety is about Behaving Appropriately

Top Tips for Parents / Carers

What age should a child 'have their own 'Smart Phone'.

1. Ages 0 – 10

Age 0 – 10 – No Phone – No Need.

Unless there are 'care', 'safety' or 'custody' issues there is no need for Under 10's to have mobile phones.



2. Age 10 - 13



Age 10 - 13 – Mobile Contact with children may now be necessary so a 'Brick Type' Phone, that allows for SMS, text messaging and managed phone calls is a possibility. This type of phone is required for parental contact with son/daughter and not required for 'Internet' or 'Selfies' or Apps or Games.

3. Age 13

Age 13 – To allow no feeling of exclusion, parents may consider a smart phone that has limited Internet access, limited contact lists. Parents should consider a signed Smart Phone Contract to set boundaries which in turn encourage 'appropriate behaviour'. Parents must install Google Family Link (Android) & Family Sharing (Apple), to control & prevent installing of Apps. **See Note Below.**



4. Age 13-14



Age 13 – 14 – Consider a Smartphone (without Social Media installed), use Google Family Link (Android) & Family Sharing (Apple). Parents control the installation of Messaging, Gaming and Social Media Apps. **See Note Below.**

5. Age 14 - 16

Age 15 – Smartphones with Social Media & Gaming Apps installed can be allowed – parents should now continue to monitor their child's online activity, and be a part of their child's Social Media, Gaming and Messaging life. **See Note Below.**



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Technological Issues with Mobile Phones:



Mobile phones are the 'go to' device for posting & scrolling Instagram, Snapchat, & Tik Tok. Parents must remember that if Internet Connectivity (WiFi or 4g) is available & 'On' then **any picture taken will be uploaded to either I Cloud or Google Cloud (Digital Tattoo).**

If posts are made to Instagram with GPS 'on' then free software allows for 'strangers' to locate users & their posting locations (Home), so **GPS must be switched off when at 'Home'** & only used by Under 17's when requested by Parents/Carers.

