**Should children be banned from owning a mobile phone?**

**Intro**

Since the rapid rise of the iPhone, smart phones have become hugely popular in society. With the current situation involving online learning and the rise of Tik Tok, I am discussing whether children should be banned from owning a mobile phone.

**Arguments for**

An argument supporting the idea that children should have phones would be that we access to educational resources. With our phones, we have been able to access educational apps like Microsoft Teams, where we can receive work and upload homework.

Another argument for allowing children to have mobile phones, is that a mobile phone can be used for multiple activities. It can be used as a camera or a calculator. Most mobile phones also come with a free calendar, which allows children to keep on top of their activities and put reminders in their phones about things coming up. For example, I have used my phone to participate in the weekly challenge for St Brigid’s GAA and the zoom call, where I catch up with my teammates, many of whom are my P7 friends.

Another benefit to children having mobile phones is that most mobile phones allow you to create a medical ID. If a child has a medical condition such as an allergy or diabetes and goes into an allergic reaction or faints due to lack of insulin, people can access their medical ID via the mobile phone and get the correct help for the child.

**Arguments against**

However, while we have access to educational resources, we have access to many other material which could be inappropriate or graphic.

Seeing these materials could have a huge damage on children’s minds.

An argument against the view that children should have phones is social media. Due to social media accounts, children will be prone to cyber bullying, which could lead to mental health issues.

Another argument against children having mobile phones is that they could be at risk of falling for online scams. Young children may not be quick to spot signs of an online scam and give away personal details, which could lead to theft.

Allowing children to have mobile phones instantly puts them at a higher risk to be a target for paedophiles. Social media is the easiest way for children to be targeted by paedophile gangs, allowing these gangs to catfish innocent children and use them.

Another argument against children having mobile phones is that there is a risk of health issues. These include eye damage, obesity, lack of sleep, aggressive behaviour and more.

**Conclusion**

I believe that by not allowing children to have their own mobile phone, it stops them from being able to be independent. Owning a mobile phone allows children to make their own decisions and express themselves and their ideas. There should be rules in place to protect children from the dangerous issues that come with having their own social media accounts.

Finally, if mobile phones were banned, it would be harder for us to keep in touch with our P7 friends as we leave to go to secondary school.

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