**Mobile phone discussion**

**By Maria McAree**

**Over the years mobile phones have gradually become more and more popular, and nowadays 70% of children between the ages of 10-14 own one. As technology becomes more commonly used in everyday life, children and parents can both feel that bringing a phone to school is a good idea, but does everyone agree????**

**Against**

**The majority of teachers think that allowing a child to bring such a valuable possession to a school is a bad idea as they cost quite a lot of money and could get damaged or lost. Some school staff also feel that bringing a phone into a school causes competition and arguments between pupils, which could end quite badly. For example, a child might brag about the model of their phone or how expensive it was, causing a fight with them and other classmates or upsetting others, making them feel less-than or under-valued. Teachers are also concerned about the children’s education being affected, as their lessons could be interrupted by phone calls or text messages being sent in the middle of the day. It’s not just the teachers who are anxious. Some parents do not agree with their children and feel they should not bring this valuable item to school, especially if their child is walking home without an adult, as the chances of getting robbed or mugged in the street or sometimes even in playgrounds, are pretty high as mobile phones can be sold for a lot of money. Police state that most crimes committed against young people are simply because criminals know that electronic devices, like a phone, will contribute to the money they earn from selling them, and as they believe that children are small and helpless, kids without an adult are often targeted.**

**For**

**Mobile phones are used more and more often as they help people communicate to others without having to go and meet them. This way of conversing became very handy, especially if children were travelling alone, as they could contact their parents when they arrived at their destination or if something bad happened to them. Letting kids use technology can help them become used to the changing world around us and can also help them feel more independent. For example, say you are a parent and your child attends a school near-by, but doesn’t have a phone. As you don’t feel comfortable sending your child alone, you drive them there each day, making them dependent on you, whereas if they had a phone they could travel freely and contact you if there were any changes to their schedule or if disaster struck. Many parents can be reassured their kids are alright through technology. Nobody can deny all of the wonderous and positive benefits bringing a phone to school offers.**

**Conclusion**

**Bringing phones to school helps to reassure parents that their child is safe and happy, but making those kids vulnerable to robbery and theft and the affect that it would have on their education. Some people, including doctors, fear that using mobile phones from such a young age can cause long-term brain damage, and suggest children to leave their phones at home. At our school there is a mix of both arguments, but it was resolved like this;**

**You are allowed to bring your phone to school with your parents’ consent, but have to hand it over to the office during the school day. If any child is seen with their phone on school property during the day, a teacher or other adult have the authority to take it off them, bring it to the office where it would be kept until that child’s parent or guardian comes and collect it.**