



SLANE NS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Email: PASlaneNS@gmail.com

September 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted to re-launch our **Voluntary Smartphone & Social Media Agreement** for its third year. Building on the strong support of our school community, we continue to help families navigate the challenges of smartphone and social media use among primary school-aged children.

Concerns around children's access to smartphones and social media have intensified. In 2025, the Government required primary schools to become phone-free during the school day, while in 2026 children's online safety became a national priority, with potential age restrictions on social media for under-16s now being explored.

Experts continue to highlight the risks of early smartphone and social media use, from inappropriate content, cyberbullying and online grooming to impacts on sleep, attention, self-esteem and wellbeing. Our agreement aims to help families **delay, rather than deny**, access and reduce the pressure on children and parents by taking a collective approach.

Through our voluntary agreement, parents/guardians can pledge not to purchase a personal smartphone for their child(ren) or allow them access to social media while in primary school. It won't solve every challenge, but it gives parents a useful tool when faced with the familiar "**but everyone else has one**" conversation.

Last year, **63% of parents/guardians pledged to delay smartphones and 63% pledged to delay social media until after primary school** – up from 53% and 58% respectively the previous year. You can view participation by class and find out more on our school website: [Internet Safety Information](#).

The school will send the online form through Aladdin today, or you can access it using the QR code below or at this [link](#). **Please complete it by Friday, September 18th**. Results will be shared later this month.

To further support parents in navigating these issues, we are delighted to welcome guest speaker Paula O'Connor, who will deliver two evening workshops in November. The sessions will explore topics including Parenting a Digital Generation, the Influence of AI, Online Gaming and Social Media. Further details will follow shortly.

If you have any questions about the Voluntary Agreement, please contact us at PASlaneNS@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,
Slane NS Parents' Association





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Voluntary Smartphone and Social Media Agreement

Aims:

- To encourage families to delay personal smartphone ownership and social media access until after 6th Class.
- To support parents/guardians who wish to make this decision collectively, reducing the pressure on individual families and children.

Key Points:

- The Smartphone Agreement does not include mobile phones without internet access or kids' smartwatches with phone/message/GPS tracking capability.
- Participation is voluntary and anonymous, with results shared as a percentage for each class group.
- The Agreements recognise that every family has different views and priorities around smartphones, social media and internet access.
- Parents/guardians can change their decision at any time.

Format:

- A parent/guardian can choose to voluntarily fill an online form with a statement such as: "I/we agree not to permit my/our child to own a personal smartphone up to and including 6th class"
- The form can be filled anonymously
- The results will be assimilated by class group as a percentage
e.g. 78% of 3rd class parents have opted in to the No Smartphone Voluntary Agreement. 87% of 3rd class parents have opted in to the No Social Media Voluntary Agreement.

Want to Read More?

CyberSafeKids – [The Year Little Changed: 2026 Report](#)

RTÉ – [Age measures not stopping underage social media access \(September 2026\)](#)

Irish Times - [How a Wicklow school's ban is inspiring pupils worldwide \(February 2026\)](#)

['The Anxious Generation'](#) - book by Jonathan Haidt