

# **‘No Smartphone’ Voluntary Code**

## *Bennettsbridge National School*

### **Aims:**

1. As a parent body, to discourage pupils from having ownership of a personal smartphone up to and including 6th class.
2. To support and enable parents and guardians who are concerned about the detrimental effects of personal smartphones on their child(ren) to make a decision and implement it collectively.

### **Key Points:**

1. The voluntary code does NOT include regular mobile phones (dumbphones) with no internet access.
2. It recognizes that every family has different priorities and opinions in relation to internet access and smartphone use.
3. It is an OPTION for ALL parents/guardians in the school.
4. If a parent/guardian alters their view subsequently and wants to purchase a personal smartphone for their child(ren) they can do so at any stage.
5. It is not a solution in itself to the growing problem but it is potentially one tool which may be helpful to those who wish to avail of it

*e.g. if a child returns from school claiming that everyone in their class has a phone except them – any parent who wishes will be able to state clearly that one a certain proportion of the class have smartphones and the remainder will not be getting them until they have left primary school.*

### **Implementation:**

1. A parent/guardian can choose VOLUNTARILY to complete an online form with a statement such as

**“I/We as the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a child or children in Bennettsbridge National School, agree to not permit my/our child(ren) to own a personal smartphone up to and including 6th class”**

2. The form is completed anonymously
3. The results will be collated by class group as a percentage (e.g. 82% of Junior Infants class parents have opted into the ‘No Smartphone’ voluntary code.

