

Dear Parents,

Technology is a boon to mankind, but its misuse can lead to serious problems. Misuse of technology is a common practice in the modern world. People, specially students, spend too much time on smart phones & computers, affecting their health & studies.

Keeping this in mind It has been reiterated again & again that students are not permitted to carry mobile phones to school. Unfortunately, students are still found carrying mobile phones which is strictly against school policy. It is important, that parents support the school in this and be more vigilant about the students carrying prohibited items to school on daily basis. (The UN's education, Science & Culture Agency) has also advocated a ban on mobile phones while CBSE has also banned use of mobile phones in school.

If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone in school, it will be confiscated and returned only after the end of the session. This action is being taken to ensure safety and security of your ward.

Your cooperation in this regard is highly solicited.

Geeta Gangwani
Principal

UNESCO endorses banning smartphones from schools

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has warned against an uncritical rush toward embrace of digital products in educational settings, noting that "there is little robust evidence on digital technology's added value in education" and that "a lot of the evidence comes from those trying to sell it". It cited the example of how "Pearson funded its own studies, contesting independent analysis that showed its products had no impact". At the same time, there was ample evidence of a negative link between excessive screen time and a child's educational performance and emotional stability, it said. The U.N. body's Global Education Monitoring Report 2023, titled 'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms' has endorsed banning smartphones in schools in situations where "technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being". It highlighted that "mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries, yet less than one in four have banned smartphone use in



schools". It also cited research studies to point out that "banning mobile phones from schools improves academic performance, especially for low-performing students". Detailing the rationale for restricting smartphone usage for children, the report cited a study of young people between the age 2 and 17 years which "showed that higher screen time was associated with poorer well-being; less curiosity, self-control and emotional stability; higher anxiety; and depression diagnoses".

The report also flagged the higher costs of delivering basic education where there is a dependency on the setting up of digital infrastructure, and how this could worsen the problem of unequal access in low-income countries. "Technology is often bought to plug a gap, with no view to the long-term costs for national

budgets. The cost of moving to basic digital learning in low-income countries and connecting all schools to the internet in lower-middle-income countries would add 50% to their current financing gap for achieving national SDG 4 targets," the report stated. Another major concern around the indiscriminate use of digital technology in education was children's privacy. "Children's data are being exposed, yet only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law. One analysis found that 89% of 163 education technology products recommended during the pandemic could survey children. Further, 39 of 42 governments providing online education during the pandemic fostered uses that risked or infringed on children's rights," the report said.

Urging governments to "putting learners first" when it came to decisions on the use of digital technology, the report urged policymakers to ensure child data protection laws and accountability mechanisms tailored to children.