



Dear parent/carer

We are a group of parents with children attending the Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust schools across Wirral who have come together to support the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' campaign, a parent-led movement with over 150k members across the UK and growing fast.

With the overwhelming evidence connecting smartphone use, especially social media with the growing mental health crisis in our young children, teens and young people, along with serious online harm and negative affects upon learning, we felt strongly that it was time to come together to act.

We understand the peer pressure for purchasing smartphones during primary school which is why a collective approach in supporting fellow parents and carers to navigate this journey is so important. Whilst the aim of the campaign is to delay giving our children a smartphone until the end of year 9, we also understand that many children already own a smartphone and we actively support all parents to keep your children safer whichever path you choose.

The response from a recent Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust meeting with school heads including the CEO, Tony Lacey, was very positive and in support of the campaign. With their support we hope to meet some of you at events in the coming months.

In the meantime, we would like to invite you to find out more about the campaign by heading to the Smartphone Free Childhood website below, and to also join the 'Merseyside' and 'Oak Trees' Whats App groups to join in the conversation. We would love to hear your thoughts and experiences along with answering any questions that you may have. Many schools also have individual Whats app groups too which you may wish to join.

We believe that with the right legislation, supportive school heads and collective parent action, we can change the tide and protect our children's future well-being.

**Website:**

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

**Oak Trees Whats App group:**

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BaMuXiuwEkw6a5rUrknqdL>

Yours faithfully

**Merseyside SFC Members**