

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD IN GODALMING**

On Thursday, 24 July, Members of Godalming Town Council received a presentation from representatives of the SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD movement and unanimously resolved to promote the initiative in Godalming.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD is a fast-growing movement of parents from across the UK, united in a shared goal: to delay children's access to smartphones and social media in support of their healthy development and wellbeing.

This is not an anti-technology campaign — it's a pro-childhood initiative. The movement believes that childhood is precious and fleeting, and that every child deserves the opportunity to grow, explore, and develop without the distraction and potential harm of addictive algorithms and age-inappropriate content.

Smartphones and social media platforms are designed to be engaging — sometimes addictive — and are often not appropriate for younger users. Constant connectivity can contribute to anxiety and reduced self-esteem, sleep disruption, exposure to harmful content and peer pressure and social comparison.

The movement encourages families to consider alternative devices, such as brick phones, until the end of Year 9 — by which time peer pressure around phone ownership and social media typically lessens.

The Council acknowledges that it cannot and should not make choices on behalf of parents. However, Godalming Town Council is committed to promoting the message that children should be protected and recognises the value of raising awareness so that parents and carers can make informed decisions.

Ends...

Get Involved. Join a growing number of families making informed, confident choices about smartphone use. Learn more about the Parent Pact and how your community can support a SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD:

[www.smartphonefreechildhood.org](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org) @smartphonefreechildhood [SFCsurrey@outlook.com](mailto:SFCsurrey@outlook.com)

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