

Smartphone use



First thoughts

1. Do you use your smartphone a lot? Are you addicted?
2. What do you mostly use your smartphone for?

A smartphone ban

France has voted to ban smartphones and personal tablets from schools. Lawmakers voted by 62-1 on Monday to prohibit students aged between 3 and 15 from even bringing their devices to school.

The ban is part of a campaign to reduce addiction to electronics. It fulfills a campaign promise made by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017. The French Minister of Education also campaigned for the ban saying devices were harmful to children's development. He called mobile devices a public health crisis and said the law protects children from screen addiction and bad mobile phone use.



The new ban extends a previous law that meant students could not use their devices in lessons. There are exceptions to the ban for students with disabilities and for using devices in the classroom for extra-curricular activities.

Many lawmakers do not believe the ban is enough to bring change. They believe the ban is little more than a publicity stunt. Banning students aged 15 and older will depend on the policy of individual schools. Experts have found that the increased use of mobile devices causes cyber-addiction, sleep disruption and bullying. Opponents of the ban say it is a backward step and will not lead to an increase in learning.

Vocabulary

<i>Prohibit</i>	- Forbid. Not allow.
<i>Fulfill a promise</i>	- To keep a promise.
<i>Exception</i>	- Something/someone not included.
<i>Publicity stunt</i>	- Planned event to get the public attention.
<i>Opponents</i>	- Somebody against something/someone.

Discussion

1. Are you for or against this ban?
2. How is this ban a 'backward step'?
3. Do students need smartphones in schools?
4. Why could smartphones be bad for students' learning?
5. Will the smartphone ban help to stop cyber-addiction?

6. Could you survive without a smartphone?
7. How do you feel when your smartphone is broken or not with you?
8. How can we protect children from smartphones?
9. What problems will we have with smartphones in the future?

