# Conservatives propose nationwide smartphone ban in schools



The Conservative Party has called for a nationwide ban on smartphones in schools, as concerns grow regarding their impact on students’ academic performance and mental health. The proposal was articulated by Laura Trott, the shadow education secretary, who emphasized the urgent need for policy changes to address these issues.

Trott expressed that rather than focusing on entertainment, such as Netflix’s "Adolescence," which has sparked a nationwide conversation about youth, the government should prioritise protective measures for students. Speaking to the Express, she highlighted that “phones are causing massive disruption” in educational environments and insisted that “the case for change could not be clearer.”

The call to action comes amid a backdrop of critiques directed at the Prime Minister and the Education Secretary, who have both dismissed previous proposals to restrict smartphone usage in schools. Trott noted that Labour's refusal to support the Conservative amendment seeking to prohibit smartphones for students under 16 was disappointing, with the Education Secretary labelling it a “gimmick” and the Prime Minister calling it “unnecessary.”

Trott added that there is a growing demand among parents, teachers, and students for the government to take decisive action on this issue, emphasising the detrimental effects that smartphones can have in educational contexts. She stated, “If we don’t, I fear we will look back and wonder why we didn’t act sooner.”

The Conservative Party argues that banning smartphones in schools would not only enhance the learning environment but also contribute positively to the mental health of young people, suggesting that a legislative change could lead to significant improvements in educational outcomes.

As the debate continues, it remains to be seen whether the government will shift its stance on smartphone usage within the classroom, amidst mounting calls from various stakeholders for increased restrictions on technology in educational settings.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/government-laura-trott-bill-tories-schools-b2716230.html> - This article provides context on the Conservative Party's call for a ban on smartphones in schools, led by Laura Trott. It explains how this proposal is part of their amendment to Labour's Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill, highlighting concerns over academic performance and mental health.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mobile-phones-schools-ban-conservatives-b2716156.html> - This article discusses the Conservatives' advocacy for banning mobile phones in schools, noting their acknowledgment that previous guidance has been ineffective. It also outlines Labour's stance against a blanket ban, emphasizing existing restrictions and support for schools in managing phone use.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education> - This general education news page often covers issues such as classroom distractions and technological impacts on learning, which aligns with broader discussions about smartphones in schools.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/education> - This education section includes articles that discuss the impact of smartphones on students' academic performance and mental health, offering insights into the ongoing debate on technology in educational settings.
* <https://www.express.co.uk/> - As a news source, it may feature interviews or statements from Laura Trott or other officials, corroborating concerns about smartphones disrupting the learning environment.