



Rednock School
Where everyone matters

WELCOME TO REDNOCK SCHOOL

PHONE FREE SCHOOLING

September 2026



Rednock School
Where everyone matters

Welcome to Rednock School

Mike Stratford
Headteacher



Protecting Our Learning Environment

Our goal is to preserve a space dedicated entirely to education, wellbeing, and genuine peer connection.

Where everyone matters



A National Movement Towards Focus

MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS: ARE THEY BEING BANNED?



Department for Education review on mobile phone impact.



A SOCIAL MEDIA BAN IS COMING TO THE UK FOR UNDER 16S.

Will it protect kids online?



Mobile phones in schools

Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day

Official national guidance for prohibiting mobile phones throughout the school day.



DfE Directive:
Prohibit mobile
phones to raise
standards and
improve
behaviour.



**The
September 2026
Initiative**



Local Action:
Foster a
distraction-free,
supportive
community
where everyone
matters.

The Core Initiative

**Year 7-11 Phone Free
environment throughout
the school day.**

Commencing September 2026.

The Daily Rhythm





8:00am – 8:40am

Arrival Expectations



Phones should be strictly away.



Out of sight.



Not seen, not heard.

Introducing the Focus Pouch

**Secure
Locking
Mechanism**



**Rapid
Release
Base**

**Padded
Storage
Zone**

3:10pm

Departure and Retrieval

At the end of the school day, students are able to unlock their pouches at designated stations and retrieve their phones before heading home.

1



Tap pouch to base.



2



Retrieve phone.



Rednock School
Where everyone matters

The Why...



Dr Susie Davies



Dr Paul Redford



Dr Ben Knight

BRISTOL SMARTPHONE EXPERIENCE & SCHOOL POLICY PROJECT

Students, Parents and Staff Perspectives

**Dr Ben Knight
Dr Paul Redford**



| Samples



SECONDARY



6 Schools



3,721 Students



1,595 Parents



352 Staff



PRIMARY



17 Schools



1,359 Parents

Secondary sample



Schools
(6)



Students
(3,721)



Parents
(1,595)



Staff
(352)



48.3%
Male



51.7%
Female

Year group

YEAR GROUP	% OF SAMPLE
7	20.7%
8	22.8%
9	21.0%
10	17.8%
11	10.9%
12	3.8%
13	3.0%

Secondary sample



Schools
(6)



Students
(3,791)



Parents
(1,595)



Staff
(352)



48.3%
Male

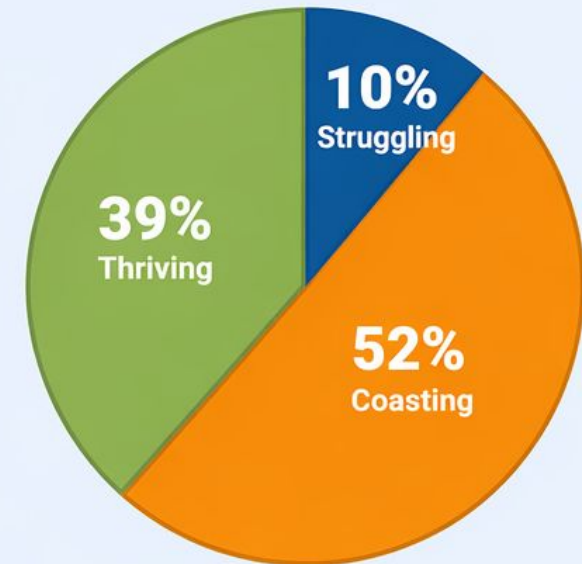


51.7%
Female

Year group

YEAR GROUP	% OF SAMPLE
7	20.7%
8	22.8%
9	21.0%
10	17.8%
11	10.9%
12	3.8%
13	3.0%

Current progress



Secondary sample



Schools
(6)



Students
(3,721)

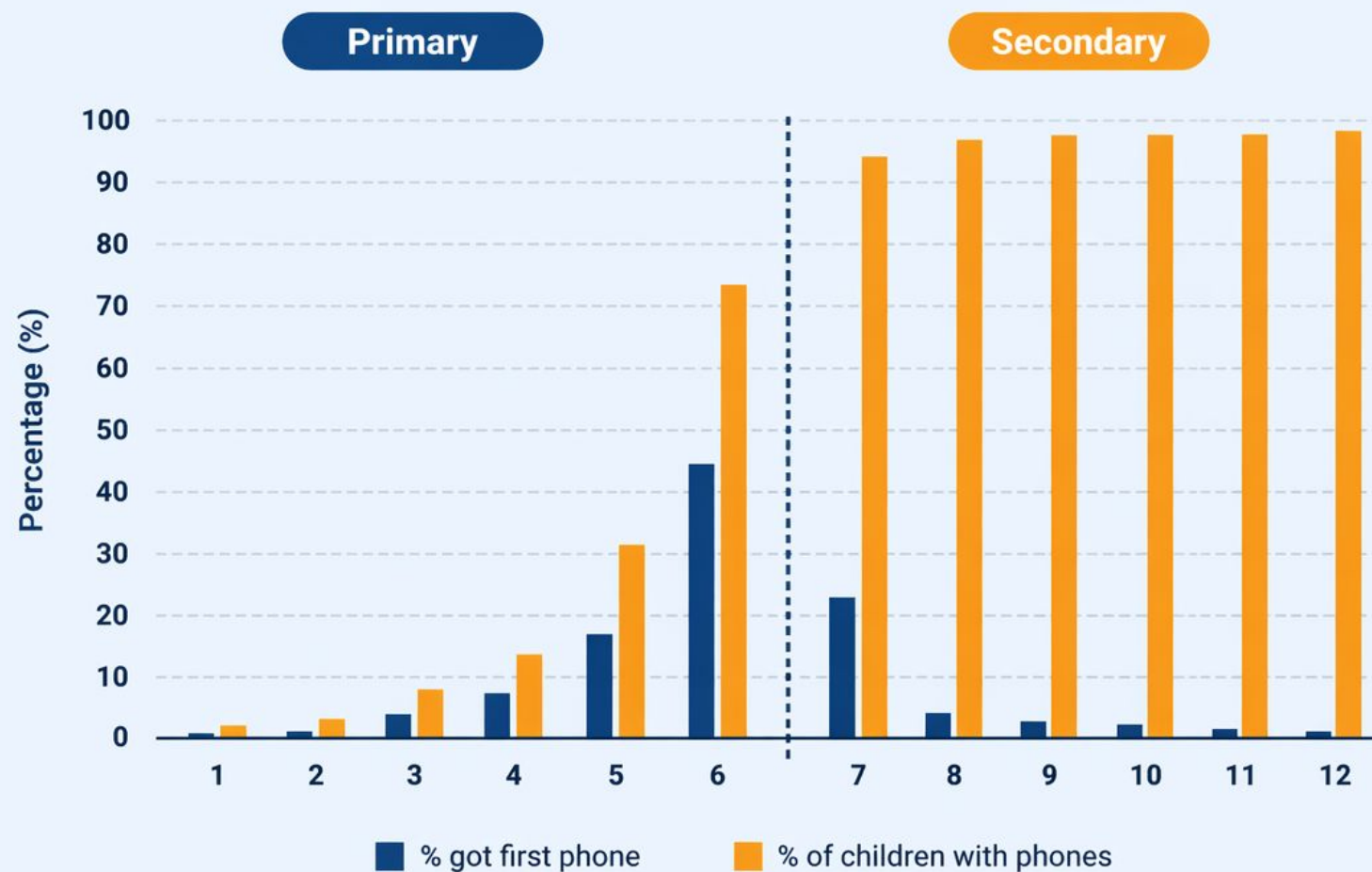


Parents
(1,595)



Staff
(352)

Smartphone ownership by year group



Finding 1

Stakeholders want different things

Views on what schools should do about phones vary widely.

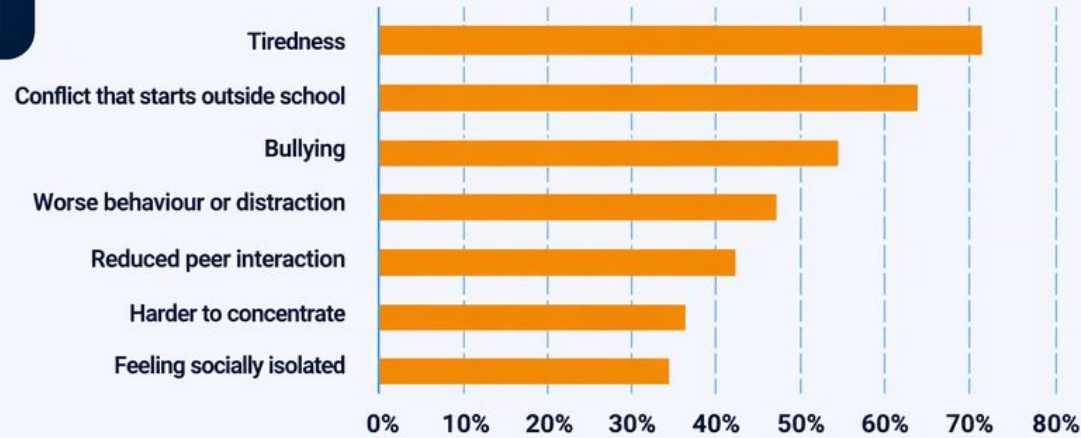
POLICY OPTION	 STUDENTS	 PARENTS	 STAFF
 No phones	1.4%	3.4%	8.0%
 No smartphones (non-smart phones allowed)	0.7%	10.0%	20.5%
 Phones handed in to office / tutor	1.9%	13.9%	12.2%
 Locked in pouches	2.5%	22.2%	24.0%
 More Restriction	6.5%	49.5%	64.7%
 Phones off in bags - confiscated if seen	30.2%	42.7%	33.0%
 Phones allowed outside of lessons	57.5%	7.8%	1.4%
 No restrictions	7.2%	0.0%	1.0%
 Less Restriction	64.7%	7.8%	2.4%

Finding 2

Policies exist but don't work as intended



% of teachers reporting impacts of smartphones



% Students following policy



Rules broken by students

Rules broken	%
Phone on silent not switched off	69%
Used phone discreetly in class	45.6%
Pretended to use phone for schoolwork	27.9%
Checked notifications on silent	48.1%
Used phone in less monitored locations	45.9%



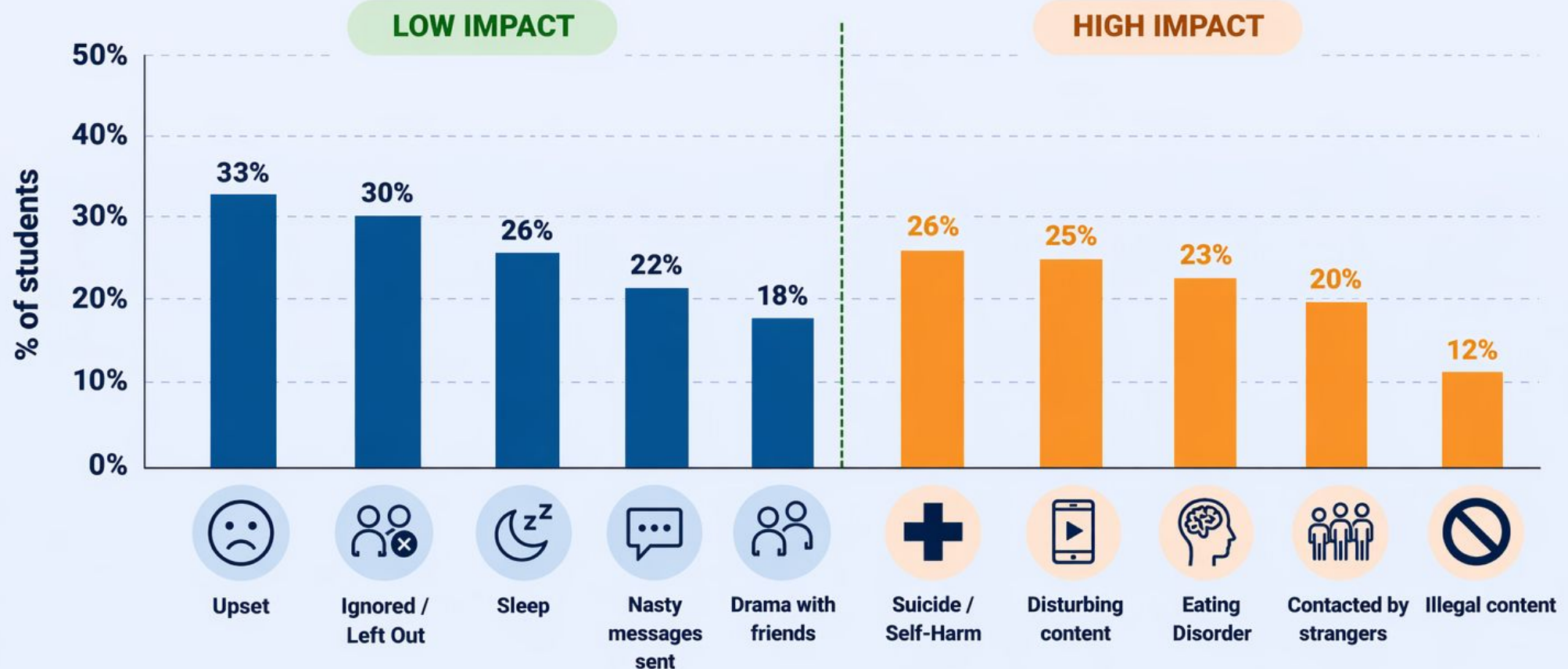
Perception of smartphones in school



Finding 3

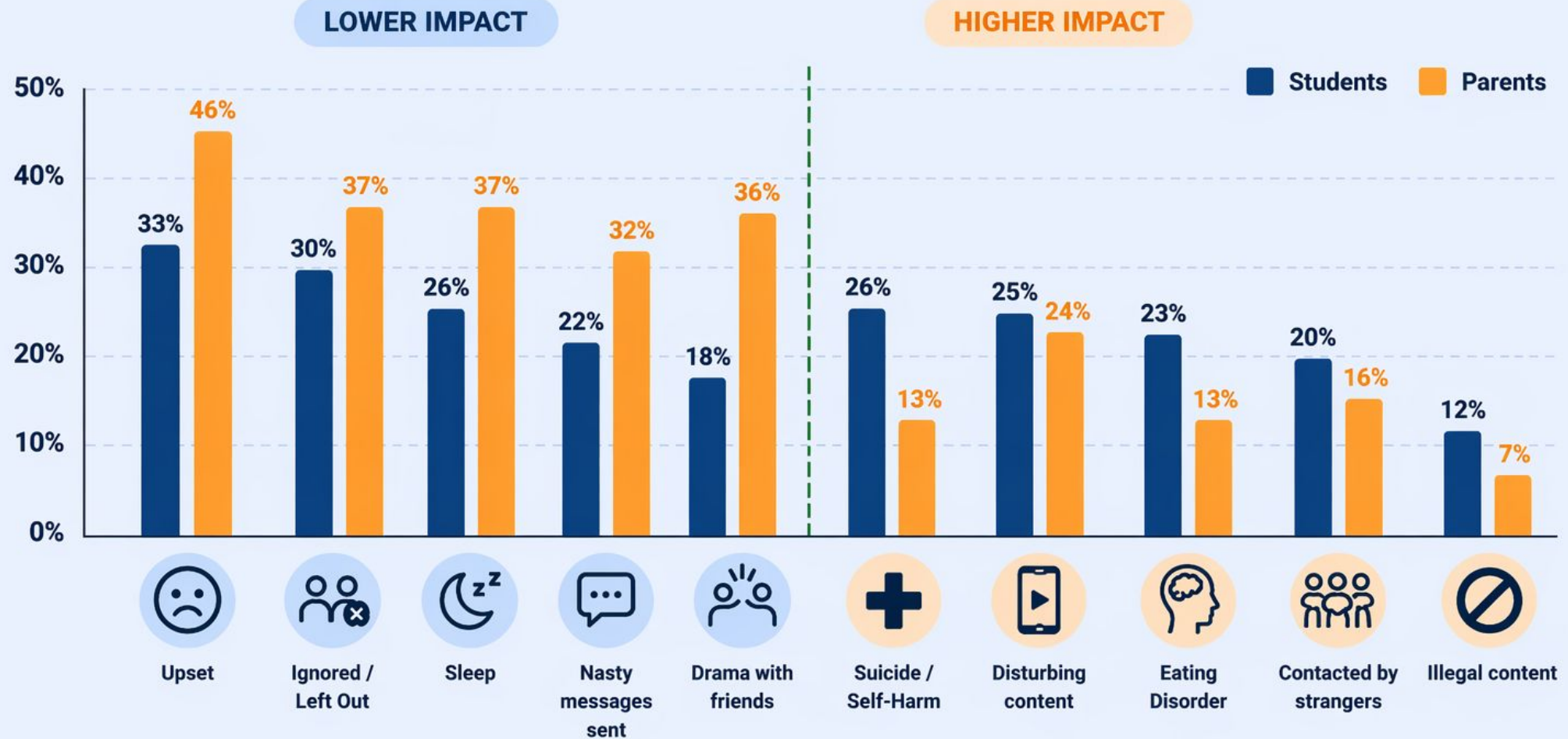
Young people report a range of smartphone harms

% of students reporting negative experiences



Negative experiences on smartphones

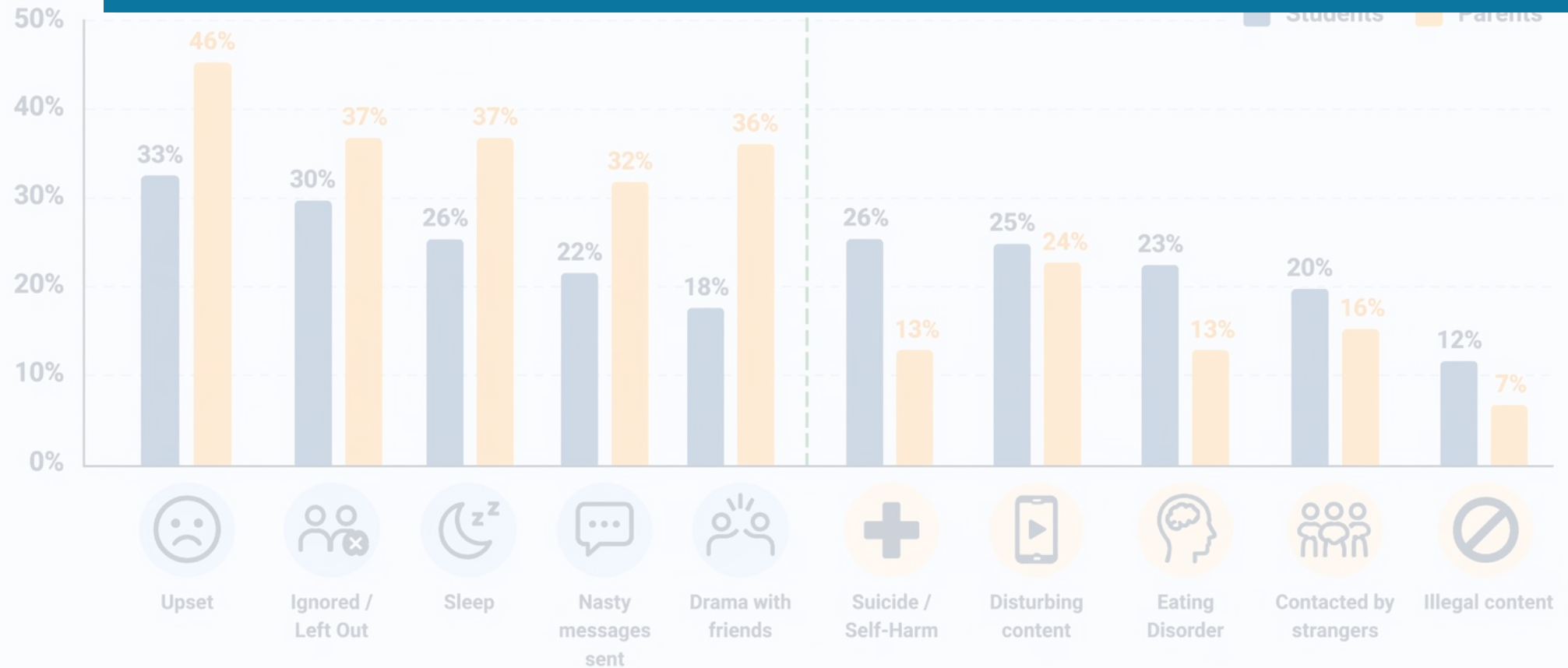
Finding 4 High-impact harms are less visible to parents



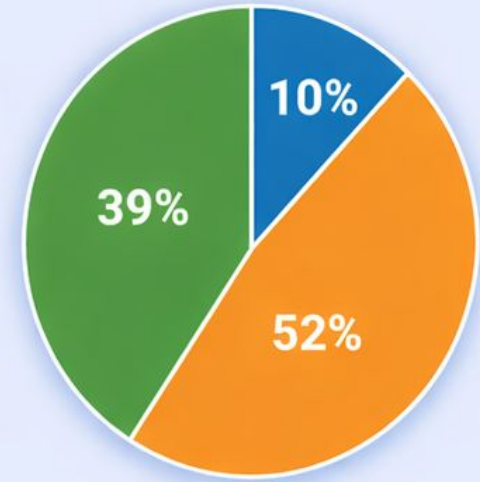
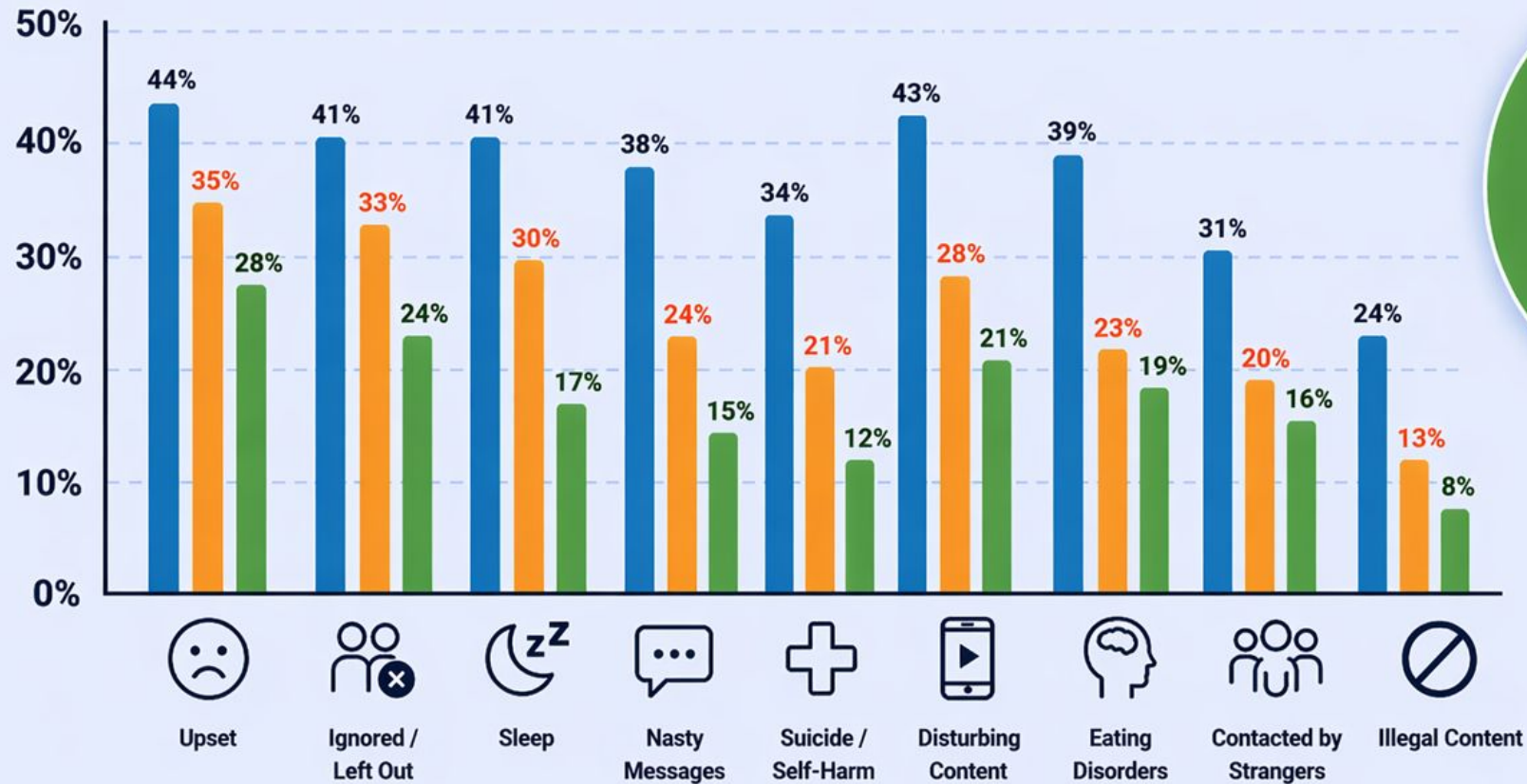
Finding 4 High-impact harms are less visible to parents

41.3%

parents concerned there is **much they don't know** about children and their smartphones



Finding 5 Struggling academically are most at risk



| Finding 6

Safety narratives drive much smartphone behavior



64%

of **parents** report their child is safe on commute with their phone



80%

of **students** say they are safer with their phone



48%

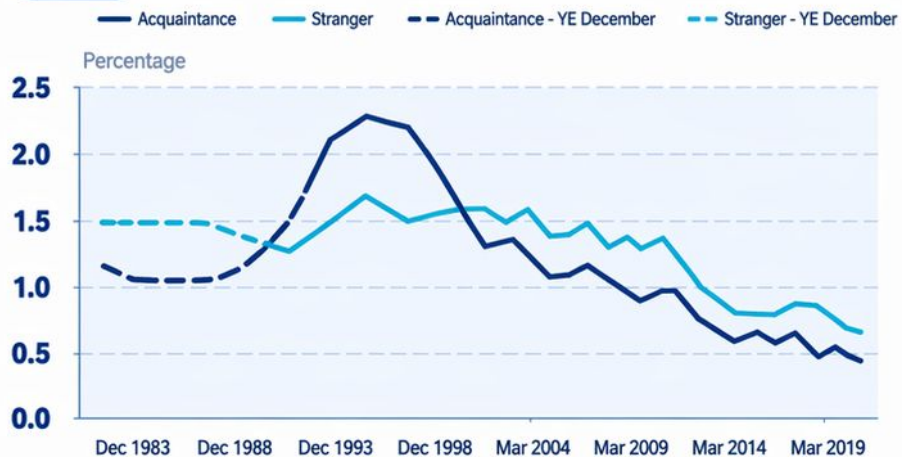
of **parents** contact their child sometimes, often or frequently during the day

“

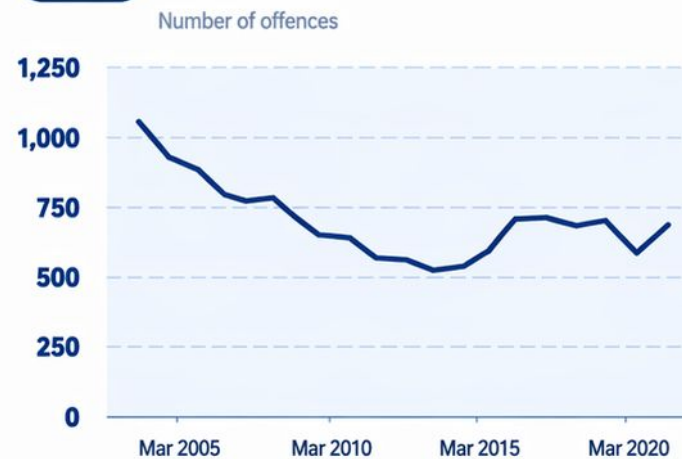
My child often walks or cycles nearly two miles to school, and having a smartphone allows us to track their journey, enhancing our peace of mind.



Violence

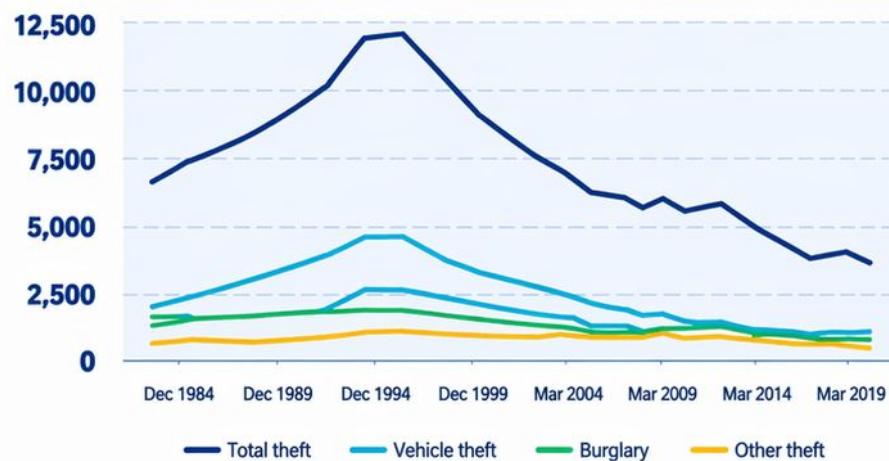


Homicide



Theft

Number of incidents (thousands)



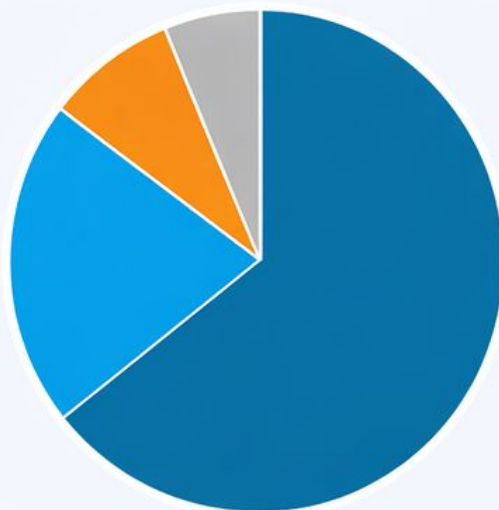
Overall crime

Number of incidents (thousands)



Finding 7

Primary-secondary transition is the tipping point



How comfortable do you feel about your child having a smartphone as they move to secondary school?

64% Very uncomfortable

21% Quite uncomfortable

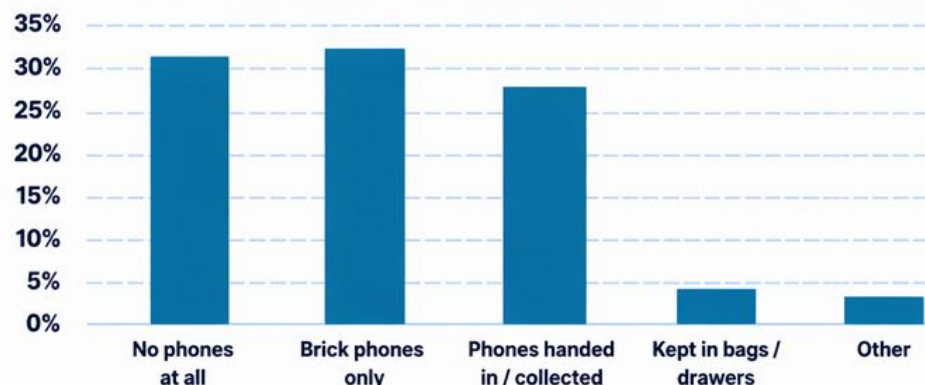
7% Neutral

5% Quite comfortable

3% Very comfortable



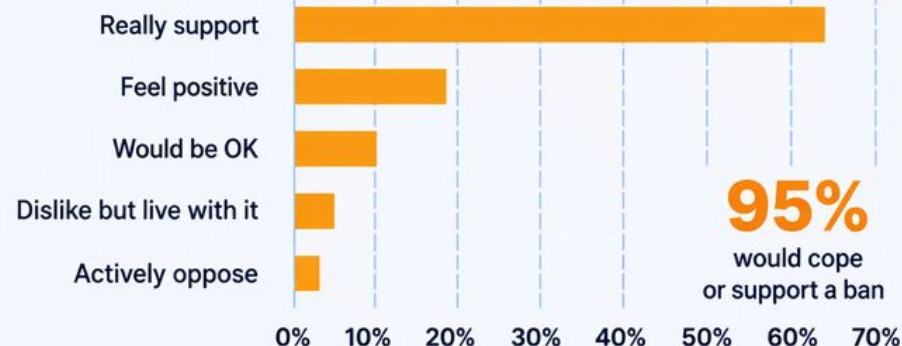
Preferred Policy



93% prefer schools to limit or remove smartphones during the school day



Response to Smartphone Ban



95%
would cope or support a ban

➤ Conclusions

01



Successful enactment of ‘Not seen or heard’ policies is virtually impossible.

02



Many young people are experiencing harms, but those who struggle academically are most vulnerable.

03



Parents are worried, but not necessarily about the right things.

Recommendations

01



Move beyond 'not seen or heard' policies

02



Prioritise the most vulnerable students

03



**More dialogue between schools, young people
and parents about safety concerns**

A Shared Commitment

Thank you for partnering with us to support our students.

To You
(Our Parents & Carers)

Our Guest
Speakers

Our Phone Free
Equipment Provider

The Dursley
Unite Charity

Protecting Our Learning Environment

Our goal is to preserve a space dedicated entirely to education, wellbeing, and genuine peer connection.

Where everyone matters

