

## Junior B, Round 3

**TOPIC : *that children under 12 should not be allowed mobile phones***

### **1. Type of Topic**

This is a normative debate. This means that the Affirmative should propose a 'model' (a policy on how this idea would be implemented). This model should be clearly described to outline what changes the Affirmative team will make to the status quo, how this will be enforced, whether there are any exceptions and the expected outcomes. The Negative team can either support the status quo or propose a counter-model. This counter-model must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model the Affirmative team is suggesting. The Negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a counter-model.

### **2. Background / Context**

Mobile phone usage amongst children has been rising steadily, with many children under 12 years of age owning their own devices. Mobile phones provide various benefits, such as easy communication with parents and access to educational resources. However, concerns about the potential negative impacts on children's health, privacy and social development have led to debates about whether children under 12 years of age should be allowed to have mobile phones.

Currently, there are no specific laws in many countries restricting mobile phone usage amongst young children. Parents and schools are primarily responsible for regulating usage. However, there are risks associated with young people using mobile phones include exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and negative effects on mental and physical health. On the other hand, people argue that mobile phones are important tools for modern communication and learning and that proper guidance and parental control can mitigate risks associated with mobile phone usage.

This debate considers whether banning mobile phones for children under 12 would effectively protect them from harm or whether alternative measures should be pursued.

### **3. Specific Questions for Consideration**

- What are the current statistics on mobile phone ownership and usage amongst children under 12 years of age?

- How prevalent is mobile phone ownership in this age group?
- What are the potential risks of mobile phone usage for children in this age group?
  - How do mobile phones impact children's mental and physical health?
  - What are the risks related to exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying?
  - Why may children under 12 be more vulnerable to the consequences of unsafe phone usage?
- What are the potential benefits of children under 12 having mobile phones?
  - How do mobile phones enhance safety and communication between parents and children?
  - What educational benefits can mobile phones provide?
- What are the alternative measures to an outright ban on mobile phones for children under 12?
  - Could parental controls or education on responsible usage be effective?
  - How can schools and parents collaborate to manage mobile phone usage?
  - Are there apps or devices designed specifically to ensure safer usage for young children?
- How does a ban balance children's rights to access countries or regions regarding mobile phone policies for young children?
- How might a ban on mobile phones for children under 12 be enforced?
  - What government or school policies would be necessary to implement and monitor such a ban?
- Are there any examples from other countries or regions regarding mobile phone policies for young children?

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