UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

smart SCHOOLS

SMART Schools+: Social Media and Adolescent mental health – the impact of UK national policy Restrictions on social media use and menTal health

PUPIL PARTICIPANT FOCUS GROUP ASSENT FORM

If you agree to take part in this study, please read the following statements, and write your initials in the boxes on the right-hand side:

Statement:	**Initials:**
I confirm that I have read and understood the Case Study Pupil Information Letter dated 03/11/2026 (Version 7), and have had an opportunity to ask questions.	
I understand that I am being asked to participate in a focus group discussion, lasting up to 60 minutes, and the discussion is about my thoughts on smartphones and social media and the upcoming social media ban.	
I understand that my participation is voluntary, and if at any time during the focus group I do not wish to contribute, I do not have to, and I can stop participating at any time.	
I understand that after I have participated, I am free to withdraw (remove myself from the study) at any time. I understand that I can do this without giving any reason, and without my rights being affected. I understand that anything I do say during the focus group cannot be deleted and will be used in the study reporting.	
I understand that the focus group will be audio-recorded, and that anonymised quotes may be used as part of the study reports.	
I understand that electronic audio-files and associated transcripts will be transferred securely between an external transcription service and the University of Birmingham with a confidentiality agreement in place. I agree to the transfer and storage of this data.	
I understand that my answers will be kept confidential and only members of the research team will have access to my personal information. I understand the exception to this is if I or someone else in the group, discloses information that is considered a safeguarding concern, and that if this happens, a researcher will share this information with a member of school staff.	
I agree to take part in the SMART Schools+ Study.	

Name_____

School _____

Year Group _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return this form to your class teacher within 1 week:
SMART Schools+ Study Project Manager
School of Sport and Exercise Rehabilitation Sciences
University of Birmingham
B15 2TT

For further information, please visit our website birmingham.ac.uk/smart-schools or if you would like to speak to someone about the study, please email us on smartstudy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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Thank you for considering taking part in the SMART School Study