

**Subject: iPads and EdTech at [School name]**

Dear **[Headteacher's name]**,

I am writing as a parent of **[child's name]** in **[Year X]** to share my concerns about the use of iPads and other devices in school - both in lessons and for homework.

*Optional: insert a positive comment about your child's school experience here, if possible.*

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to technology in all circumstances. But I believe now, thanks to extended research and reading, that any use of iPads or similar devices in schools, outside of specific IT lessons, is harmful to children's wellbeing and their education. I know that many other parents at **[School name]** share this view.

There is often talk about distraction, and about the risk of children accessing inappropriate content. These are real concerns - but they are not the only ones.

### **Distraction**

If it is hard for adults to concentrate when the internet is but one click away, the temptation for children is clearly overwhelming. It is both unrealistic and unfair to place an internet-enabled device in a child's hands and expect them to focus.

### **Safeguarding and content**

I am sceptical of the ability of safeguarding software and firewalls to reliably prevent children from accessing content they should not see. Children find ways around restrictions, and there is no shortage of advice online telling them how to do so. AI has now made the blocking of individual websites almost entirely ineffective - a child can ask an AI assistant about almost anything without ever visiting a blocked site.

### **Educational standards**

All the research shows that educational standards have declined markedly since the widespread adoption of EdTech in the developed world. Children simply absorb information far better using traditional methods. PISA reports and independent studies from institutions including UNESCO support this conclusion.

### **The motives of EdTech companies**

The motives of EdTech companies when selling into schools are rarely discussed, but they deserve scrutiny.

There are two issues in particular:

Firstly, these companies are trying to recruit children to specific tech habits and platforms - creating lifelong customers. Schools are unwittingly aiding a marketing strategy without the knowledge or consent of parents.

Second, and more seriously, is the question of data. Children's data - and the data of parents who sign consent forms without reading pages of terms and conditions - is being harvested for corporate profit. This transactional and invasive process is enabled by schools without the explicit informed consent of families. It may also place schools in a significant legal position.

## **Screen addiction**

Perhaps most importantly, there is the harm done to children by enabling screen addiction. These devices and their software are designed by psychologists working for the largest and most powerful corporations in the world specifically to capture and hold attention. The result is that virtually every child is now struggling with some form of device dependency. Every parent knows how much harder this has made the already difficult business of raising happy, healthy children.

For a school to then require that homework be completed on a device - in households that restrict screens at home - seems at odds with the duty of care we all share towards these children.

*Optional: add your own experience here - for example, how screen-based homework is affecting your child at home, or what you have observed about their screen use or sleep.*

Screen use at this level causes anxiety, damages eyesight, sleep quality, spinal health, and damages mental health. It also normalises habits that can escalate into social media dependency, with all the risks that brings.

## **A request**

The case against indiscriminate EdTech use is now so well established that it is genuinely difficult to understand why schools continue to expand its use. I would ask [School name] to commit to a serious review - one that looks honestly at the evidence, involves parents, and considers whether current practice is truly in the best interests of our children.

If it would help, I am happy to share some of the research I have been reading. A summary of the evidence is also available at [closescreensopenminds.com/the-evidence](https://closescreensopenminds.com/the-evidence).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your child's name and year group]

[Your contact email]