Should mobile phones be banned in school?

In the past few years, there has been an explosion in the use of new communication technologies, including mobile phones. It is estimated that over 70% of young people aged 10-14 years now own one. Considerable debate has taken place recently as to whether pupils should be allowed to take their mobiles into school. Some people believe that they could be a constant distraction in school, while others see them as a necessity in today’s modern world and having them at school should be no exception.

No one can deny the positive benefits of young people communicating freely with each other. Many argue that using a mobile phone, even in a school environment is a simple way of doing this, using technology. What if their friend was in a different part of the school during lunch time and they wanted to meet up? What if arrangements for after school were changed? How would they know if they didn’t have a phone? Also, many parents are in favour as their children walk to school and they would feel reassured that if anything happened to their child, they would be able to contact them immediately.

However, schools point out that having a mobile phone can cause safety issues. A child could be more vulnerable to theft or mugging, both on the street and the playground. Police confirm that a high proportion of crimes committed against young people involve the theft of phones. As well as that, schools are concerned that allowing pupils to bring mobile phones into school could create a competitive atmosphere and could result in some children feeling left out or unvalued. In addition, they claim that pupils’ education could be affected by the constant distraction of phones ringing or buzzing in class.

There are many reasons why mobiles phones should or shouldn’t be allowed in schools. I believe that mobile phones should be banned from school as they can be very distracting and young people use them enough at home already. I think that school should be the place where they communicate with their friends face to face and concentrate on their school work. What do you think?