

SSITA Safe Schools Information Technology Alliance

Dear Headteacher and Board of Governors,

We know that this is an extremely busy time of year for you but we would like to let you know about three important announcements in May which impact on school health and safety policies.

1. The Council of Europe Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs voted unanimously to ban Wi-Fi and mobile phones in schools.

The Council of Europe is a non-legislative body but influences policy making within the EU.

(8.3.) concerning the protection of children:

8.3.2. ban all mobile phones, DECT phones or Wi-Fi or WLAN systems from classrooms and schools, as advocated by some regional authorities, medical associations and civil society organisations.

[Download pdf](#) or visit the [Council of Europe website](#) for the html version.

2. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the above resolution, recommending that schools “ give preference to wired internet connections”

... for children in general, and particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by school children on school premises.

[Quick View \(pdf\)](#)

3. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of The World Health Organisation, classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans (group 2B).

www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf

Lastly, you will find that the British Medical Journal press release gives a clear and simple overview of these developments.

wifiinschools.org.uk/resources/BMJ+May+2011.pdf

Please, for the sake of the children in your care, consider these recommendations and their implications when reviewing your health and safety policies.

With best wishes,

SSITA

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