



## Wi-fi in schools

[schools](#)  
[reduce exposures from wi-fi](#)

[Click here to download a fact sheet on wi-fi in schools](#)  
[Click here to download simple steps to](#)

A classroom fitted with wi-fi means that the children and staff are exposed to constant low-level microwave radiation.

Everyone is affected cumulatively by this exposure and current evidence suggests that children may be particularly vulnerable.

Low-level microwave radiation has also been linked to [cognitive skills, particularly memory, concentration and reaction time](#).  
[Read more about the health effects...](#)

Of particular significance [studies](#) which indicate that children absorb more radiation in the brain than adults.

“When WiFi was put into my classroom I began to suffer headaches, nausea, pains around the body and heart palpitations. These disappeared each evening away from the wi-fi but returned the following day when I was again exposed to it. After eight days it became so bad that the school head agreed to switch off the wi-fi in my classroom.”

Michael Bevington, teacher, Stowe School, Buckingham

“A wired network must ... be used as the main network in an institution....Wireless networking can provide an additional layer of flexibility to enhance

network from previously inaccessible locations.

[Becta advice](#)

**Many governments and public bodies recommend against the use of wireless networks in schools...**

The European Union is recommending tighter standards for wireless systems to protect children.

Frankfurt City Government and the Bavarian Parliament have recommended against the installation of wi-fi in schools.

The Public Health Department of Salzburg has warned against the use of wi-fi in schools and nurseries.

French National Libraries has imposed a moratorium on wi-fi networks in French libraries after staff reported ill effects.

Teachers' Union Voice has said wireless computer networks in schools may be jeopardising children's health and should be suspended pending a full safety inquiry.

The International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (ICES) has advised against the use of wireless networks because of health concerns.

The chairman of the health protection agency (HPA) has expressed concern about the use of wireless networks in schools.

[BBC News - Health - Wi-Fi in schools: Health experts warn of risks](#)



[BBC Radio 4 - Schools - Dr Blackwell on Stephen Nolan show](#)



## Cordless Phones in schools

Cordless (DECT) phones offer convenience but emit the same type of radiation as mobile phones and wifi. When the phone is in use on a call the person using it exposes the head to relatively high levels of radiation and those around are also exposed to this at a reduced level.

[Read more...](#)



**The German health protection agency recommends removal of cordless (DECT) phones**

[Read more...](#)

also to use cordless phones in schools, exposing children and



## Mobile Phones in schools

An individual mobile phone can give off relatively high levels of microwave radiation, especially if there is poor reception. To avoid passive radiation, current advice is that they should not be used within a metre of another person. Since this is difficult or impossible in most classrooms, mobiles should not be used in school buildings by pupils or teachers except in an emergency.

[Read more about the dangers of mobile phones...](#)

Mobile phones can also create social problems for children, such as addiction to mobile phone use, bullying by text and inappropriate use of camera phones, as well as an increased risk of being mugged and of being involved in a road accident.

[Read more...](#)

We recommend teachers, staff, parents and visitors be asked to keep their mobile phones turned off at all times within school, except maybe for short periods to listen to messages. Mobile phone calls should only be made when several metres away from children, and ideally outside the building. We also recommend mobile phone use by children be actively discouraged.

[Download a poster to support a mobile-free policy.](#)

When children insist on using a mobile phone, there are simple steps they can take to minimise their radiation exposure. [Read more...](#)

[Click here for a full summary of the health effects of microwave radiation in schools ...](#)

[Find out about health implications of interactive whiteboards...](#)

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