

# 04. HOW TO MANAGE YOUR SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY WHATSAPP



**Firstly you might be wondering, how can I introduce this on my class WhatsApp group?**

**The class WhatsApp can be a tricky place to bring up the issue of smartphones. Some parents have already got them for kids, and it can feel confronting. The best approach is gentle, compassionate and non-judgemental.**

**Suggested message for your class WhatsApp group, but please do edit to use your own voice:**

Hi all, have you heard about the Unplugged Rebels movement of parents that has sprung up across NZ recently?

I've been worrying about what it's going to be like for [X] having a smartphone, and would love to find out what you all think. Is anybody up for meeting up to talk about it?

It's all about empowering parents to talk about this - and to change the norm so that we don't feel like we all have to get one just because everyone else does. Lots of schools have started their own Unplugged Rebels NZ school WhatsApp groups too. I have set up a separate WhatsApp group for our school, flick me a message if you are keen to join and I will add you to it.

There's lots more info on their website [www.unpluggedrebelsnz.com](http://www.unpluggedrebelsnz.com)

Once you have set up your school WhatsApp group, simply add parents as they request to join, or you can change the settings so that anyone in the group can invite new members and you can set it so that you (as the admin) accept each one, or they are accepted automatically. You may choose to set up an "Announcements" page where only you can write and pass on useful information, articles, upcoming events etc (useful if you end up with a large number of members and lots of comments that can be hard to keep up with) and a separate page for general group chat, or you might just prefer to just have a general group chat. It is important to set up expectations from the start of acceptable behaviour, and as the admin it is important you keep tabs on the content to ensure nothing inappropriate or unhelpful gets posted on there.

**It is recommend that you have an introductory post similar to the following:**

Welcome to Unplugged Rebels NZ [SCHOOL]. This group is a place of community and solidarity for parents who want to hold off on giving their kids smartphones. We know it can be a divisive issue, and we are not judging anyone who has already given their child a smartphone - we've all be put in an impossible situation by the Tech companies and we need to come together to show them that something needs to be done. This group aims to provide a supportive environment where members can exchange ideas, resources, and strategies to foster healthy relationships with technology in their communities.

Our website: [unpluggedrebelsnz.com](http://unpluggedrebelsnz.com)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/962985088550221/>

**Community Group Rules:**

- Be kind and inclusive: Please treat everyone with respect. We are all here to support each other in navigating the challenges of raising children in the digital age.
- No hate speech or bullying: Degrading comments, personal attacks, or any form of bullying will not be tolerated.
- No promotions or spam.
- Respect everyone's privacy: We value mutual trust. What's shared in the group should stay in the group. Please refrain from sharing personal information or conversations outside of this group without consent.
- Focus on solutions: Let's keep the discussions focussed on finding solutions and sharing helpful tips and resources about how to hold off giving kids smartphones.
- Avoid spreading fear or negativity.
- Respect diverse perspectives: We understand that different families have different approaches to smartphone usage and screen time. Please keep the debate respectful and constructive.
- Admin rights: The admins of Unplugged Rebels NZ WhatsApp groups revers the right to remove users who do not adhere to these rules. Persistent violation of the guidelines may result in removal without prior warning. Our primary aim is to maintain a sage and supportive environment for all members.

