

# Scourge of our schools

Queensland kids and their phones have become far too smart for their own good. Classes are being disrupted and school discipline and order undermined by inappropriate use of smartphones for porn trawling, bullying and the humiliation of others.

They have loaded up school backpacks with another level of expensive technology subject to childish brawls and adult legal hassles.

There are no official figures on the extent of the problem but widely reported incidents in both public and private schools include exhibitionism, disruptive games, text messaging and Facebook sessions, intrusions on privacy, bullying, theft and vandalism.

Teachers are now subject to provocation and secret recordings that are subsequently broadcast to the possible detriment of their careers and their personal lives.

Individual school responses have included warnings, threats of legal action and outright bans.

However, schools are limited in their actions because three-quarters of children carry smartphones to school with their parents' approval or their active encouragement.

Some parents doubtlessly bow to their peer-pressured children but others welcome the reassurance of a safety line to their families.

Once again, the answer to a burgeoning school problem seems to lie within the family.

Those blaming our schools for a lack of phone smarts might be punching in a wrong number.