

Could wireless technologies be doing children more harm than good?

- **Exposure in a WiFi enabled classroom has been shown to be similar to those living in close proximity to a mobile phone base station.**

Both the Swiss IT'IS lab (responsible for SAR testing of phones) and the UK Health Protection Agency have found typical exposures sitting at a laptop in a wirelessly enabled classroom give rise to RF electric field exposures around 1 to 2 volts per metre. In the absence of comprehensive research into the health effects of WiFi itself, these levels are very similar both in level and in type to those experienced by those living within 150 metres of a mobile phone mast.

- **Studies indicate serious health risks:**

Studies have demonstrated a host of symptoms linked with exposure to mobile phone mast radiation, like headaches, nausea, ADHD and concentration and sleep disturbance.

Particularly concerning in education is the consistent finding that learning, concentration and behaviour are all disrupted by this exposure.

Two studies have shown significantly increased levels of cancers amongst those living within a few hundred meters of a mobile phone mast.

You can read more about the studies at <http://www.wiredchild.org/sciencealias.html>.

" 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 WiFi 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 WiFi in my area. My symptoms stopped immediately. "

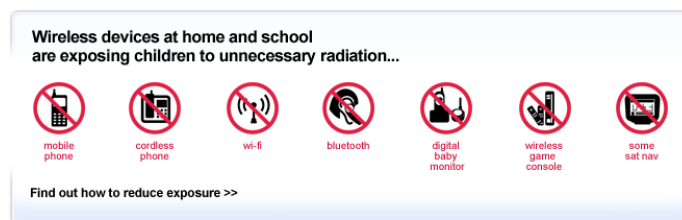
Michael Bevington, teacher, Stowe School, Buckingham

- **There is evidence demonstrating that children are more vulnerable:**

"Children's immune systems are developing, and they are likely to be more vulnerable because of that. Also, there is some evidence -- although we need more -- that there may be more ions in the tissue of a child because they're in a growing situation." (Professor Lawrie Challis, ex-chair of the UK Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme).

- **Governments and public bodies are raising the alarm about wireless technologies in schools:**

- **The European Parliament** voted in September 2008 by a majority of 522 votes to 16 to recommend tighter safety standards for wireless technology like WiFi, especially to protect vulnerable groups like children
- **Two UK teaching unions (ATL and Voice)** are calling for the suspension of WiFi in schools stating that they "continue to be concerned about the possible effects of WiFi" (Voice). **Somerset County Council** has called off its planned installation of a town-wide WiFi system in Glastonbury after a campaign by local residents
- **The German federal government** has issued a statement advising against the use of WiFi and a **German teachers union (GEW) and the Frankfurt City government** are warning against the installation of WiFi in schools
- **The French National Library** has abandoned its planned WiFi system due to reported health effects and many schools in France are removing WiFi systems
- **The Austrian Medical Association and the City of Salzburg** have both warned against the use of WiFi in schools



www.wiredchild.org

WiredChild is a UK charity run by a group of parents and teachers, aiming to raise awareness of the potentially serious health risks of mobile phones and wireless technologies. Our aim is to ensure that parents, schools and children are given appropriate information and advice to help them reduce children's exposure to potentially harmful electro-magnetic radiation.