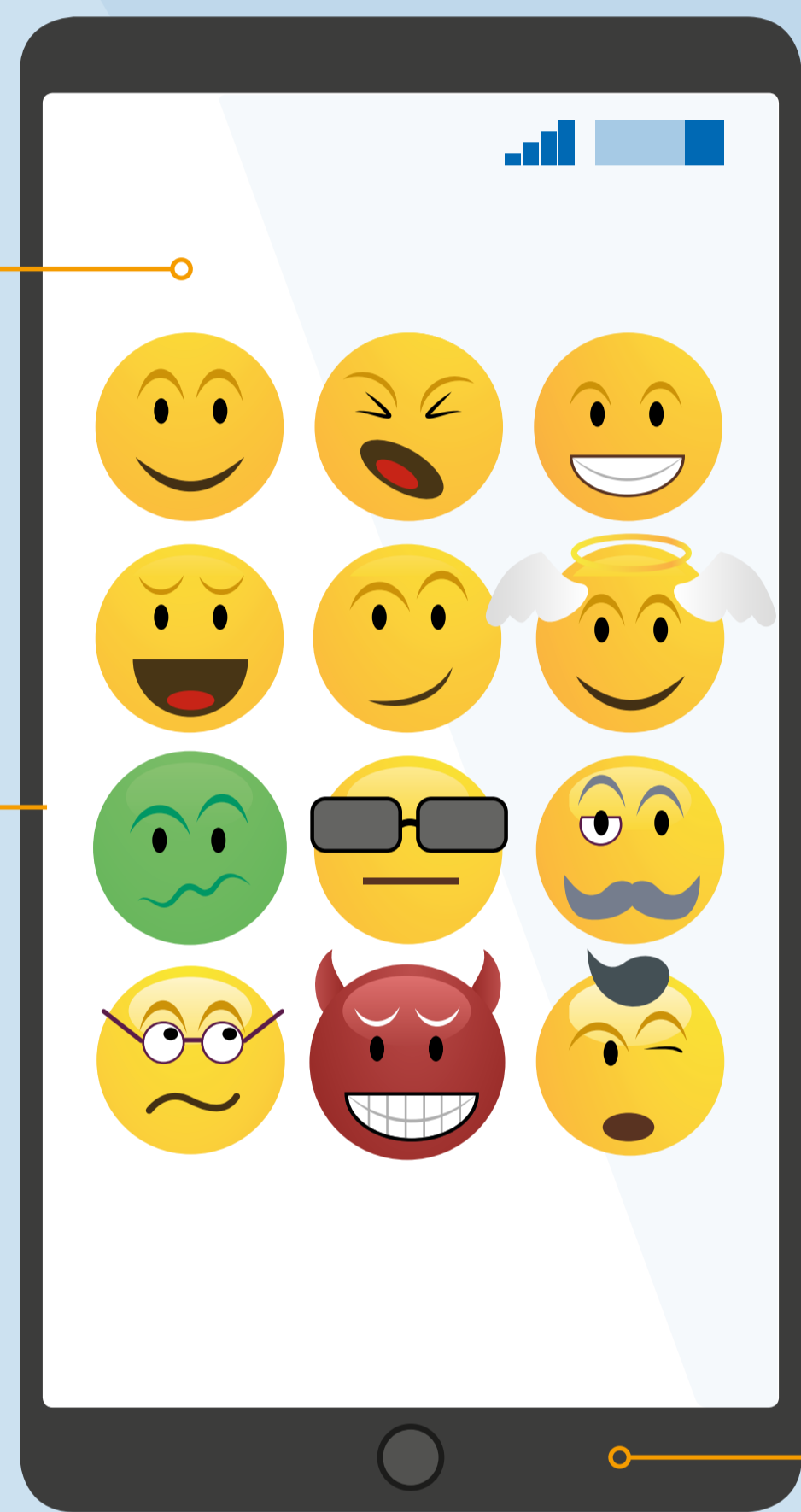


The lifecycle of a mobile phone

Did you know more people have mobile phones than toilets around the world?
Yet have you ever stopped to consider how a mobile phone is made – or what happens to old phones when they're no longer wanted?

How is a mobile phone made? Mobile phones are made from lots of different materials.



THE SCREEN

Glass is the main material in the screen, but it's not the same sort of glass that's in your classroom windows. It's been mixed with some chemicals to make it much tougher.

THE BATTERY

Most phones rely on a type of rechargeable battery called 'lithium ion'. It doesn't weigh as much as other batteries and can last for longer.

THE CLEVER STUFF BEHIND THE SCREEN

All sorts of metals and chemicals are used in the 'electronics' in a mobile phone. Some of these are toxic – like mercury – and could be dangerous if we came into contact with them.

THE TOUCHSCREEN

Special chemicals bring colour to the screen and also turn it into a touchscreen.

THE BATTERY CASE

The battery case is usually made from a metal called aluminium. This is the same metal used to make drinks cans.

PRECIOUS METALS

Did you know mobile phones contain gold and silver? These are metals more commonly used to make jewellery. In fact, there's enough gold in 50 mobile phones to make one gold wedding ring!

THE CASE

The job of the case is to protect the valuable contents inside the phone from getting damaged, so it's usually made from sturdy metal or plastic.

Most people usually buy a new mobile after 18 months... ...What happens to all the old phones?

THROW IT IN THE BIN

Mobile phones are made from materials that take a very long time to decompose. They also contain dangerous toxic chemicals, which could leak out in landfill and harm us.

Mobile phones should **NEVER** be thrown out with the rubbish.

REUSE IT

If it's still in working condition, the best way to get rid of an old mobile phone is to pass it on to somebody else!

Lots of charities collect mobile phones for recycling. Your school might do so too.

STICK IT IN A DRAWER

There are about two unwanted mobile phones for every home in the country...

What a waste!

RECYCLE IT

The old parts in a mobile phone can be reused to make new phones, so fewer new materials need to be sourced. Making a phone from recycled materials also uses less water and energy.

We recycle about **1 in 20** mobile phones in the UK.

Mobile phones can be taken to your local recycling centre or sent away to a mobile phone recycling company – some will even give you money for your old phone!

