

Mobile Phone Policy – August 2025

Introduction

In recent months we have been reviewing our approach to pupil use of mobile phones during the school day. There is a significant amount of concern about the negative impact on young people of unrestricted access to personal devices and social media. There is clear evidence around the impact of mobile phones use on pupil wellbeing, mental health and readiness to learn.

In response to these concerns and this evidence both the Scottish Government and Perth and Kinross Council have recently produced a policy on mobile phone use in schools. Each of these policies and our own reviewed policy is a result of a consultation with stakeholders and a review of current practice in schools.

We aspire to be a school where our pupils and staff have excellent face to face relationships and where pupils can focus on their learning, free from distractions. We believe that while mobile phones can be excellent learning tools our pupils would benefit from a school where mobile phones are not seen in the school building.

We believe that this policy is in line with our school values – happy, engaged, ambitious, respectful and trustworthy.

Off and Away

In our primary school the majority of pupils do not bring a mobile device to school. The small number of pupils who do bring a device to school are asked to switch it off before they come into the school grounds and hand it to their class teacher for safe storage during the school day.

In the secondary school, parents may also choose to send their child to school without a mobile phone and we would support this.

Pupils who do bring phones must ensure that before they come into the school grounds their phone is switched off and placed in their schoolbag or pocket. It must not be taken out for any reason. This includes before school and at interval and lunchtime. Phones which are seen in the school building during the school day will be switched off by the pupil and safely stored in the school office until the end of the day.

Contact with home

As phones will be “off and away” parents and carers will not be able to contact their child using their mobile phone. If a parent needs to speak with their child or pass on an

essential message this can be done by contacting the school office. In these cases, we will usually pass on a message or if necessary, give a child access to a landline phone to speak with their parent or carer. We believe that taking away the possibility of contact with home will allow pupils to expect no digital distractions which will improve their ability to focus. We have a team of staff who can support pupils who are anxious and require support during the school day. If contact with home is essential this will be agreed through child and young person's planning meetings where support plans can be updated and then shared with staff. Wherever possible support plans will not include the use of pupils' personal devices.

Phones as an agreed part of a support plan

Pupils will not be permitted to use their phones unless this is agreed as an appropriate strategy in their child or young person's planning meeting. In line with our ambition to have a mobile phone free school we will look for alternative strategies to support pupils who wish to use their phones to help them manage their mood or anxiety.

Responding to issue with mobile phones

If a phone is being used without permission during class time the teacher will ask the pupil to switch the phone off right away and a member of the support or leadership team will be called to take the phone and take it to the school office where they will be stored in a labelled envelope. If a phone is seen being used by any staff member outside of class time they will ask the pupil to immediately switch the phone off and accompany them to the school office where the phone will be stored until the end of the school day. If the pupil refuses to cooperate with this expectation this will be handled in line with our school Relationships Policy. We will work with parents and, if necessary, use staged sanctions to ensure cooperation with agreed expectations both in the moment and in future.

Lunchtimes

Some pupils use their phones to pay for food outside the school grounds at lunch time. If pupils need to have their confiscated phone during lunchtime they can request permission to collect it from the school office and return it as they re-enter the school building.