



Brechin High School

Mobile Policy



Rationale

When young people keep phones and headphones away in class, a much more productive learning environment is created, and everybody can achieve more.

Policy

The use of mobile phones is not permitted during lessons. We have adopted this approach for three main reasons:

- To focus on learning, by reducing distractions.
- To raise attainment, by improving concentration.
- To improve mental health, by making young people feel safer.

We expect all young people to have their mobile phone switched off and safely stored in the classroom phone box in each classroom.

Expectations and Logical Consequences

If a young person does not meet our expectations about putting their phone in the box, and is found to be using their phone during a lesson, the following will happen:

1. Reminder

They will be reminded by their teacher that phones should be on silent and in the phone box, and they will be asked to do this immediately. A brief restorative conversation will take place at the end of the lesson. A message will be sent home.

2. PT involved

Should this prove to be unsuccessful, the teacher will contact the PT for assistance. The PT will then take the mobile phone into their room and return the pupil to their class, or remove the pupil for the remainder of the lesson should their unwillingness to comply continue. A message will be sent home.

3. SLT involved

If the pupil does not co-operate with the PT, SLT will become involved, and parents will be contacted. The phone will be confiscated until the end of the day and a message sent home. We do not wish to confiscate phones, but if Learning and Teaching is being interrupted, and pupils do not heed warnings, then that is how we will proceed.

4. Persistent Issues

We ask that home supports us in ensuring the young person does not have a phone with them in school at all if they cannot regulate their own phone use as expected. Alternatively, your phone will be handed in to the DHT/PT PCS each morning and collected by you after school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I still bring my phone to school?

A: Yes, but it must be placed in the classroom phone box at the start of every lesson. You do not have to bring a phone to school.

Q: What will happen to my phone?

A: Phones must be switched off or on aeroplane mode before being placed in the foam insert inside the box when entering the classroom. Young people will be given time at the end of each lesson to collect their phone before the class is dismissed.

Q: What if there is an emergency and I need to contact home?

A: You can speak to your teacher to get permission to go to PCS or DHT so that you can use your phone, or a school phone.

Q: My parent/carer is phoning/texting me - can I answer?

A: No. Parents/carers have been informed that you cannot access your phone during lessons. You can contact them at break or lunch, or they can contact you via the school office in an emergency.

Q: Can I still listen to music from my phone?

A: No. You will have no access to your phone during lessons.

Q: What if I need to message my friends?

A: You do not need to contact your friends during lessons – you should be focused on your learning and can contact your friends at break or lunch.

Q: Can I use my phone in the corridors?

A: You can use your phone at break or lunch, before school and after school. Between lessons you should make your way promptly to your next lesson and should not be on your phone as you make your way round the school.

Q: Why are there not different rules for senior pupils?

A: Mobile phones are a distraction to everyone, and we have the same expectations for all pupils.

Q: What if a teacher refuses to return my phone?

A: Phones that are placed in the classroom phone box at the start of the lesson will be returned by the teacher at the end of the lesson.

Q: Will it take a lot of time to put phones in the box?

A: No. Just like in PE, we will very quickly establish a routine for this so that it does not take time away from learning and teaching.

Q: What happens if there is a fire alarm?

A: As happens currently, we need to ensure we do not stop to collect belongings, it is important to evacuate quickly and safely.

Q: Do I need to put my phone in the classroom box during registration?

A: yes

Q: Can S5 use their phones during private study?

No, the teacher will expect you to put your phone in the box.

Q: Can S6 use their phones during private study time?

A: This will depend on the work being done at this time. If you are helping in class, you will put your phone in the box. If you are doing private study in the S6 study area, we will expect you to limit your access to your phone. If you are socialising, we expect you to use the cafe area anyway.

Q: Will teachers put their phones in the box?

A: Teachers will store their phones out of sight, but not necessarily in the box.

Q: What happens if someone takes my phone?

A: Teachers will supervise pupils when they collect their phones. There is no obligation to bring a phone to school.

Q: What happens if someone refuses to put their phone in the box?

A: This will be dealt with in the same way as any other failure to meet school expectations, and we will follow our usual pattern of logical consequences.

- Your teacher will remind you to put your phone in the box
- You may be moved from the class
- Another teacher, the PT or DHT may be called
- If you have to be referred to the Depute Head, you may be required to hand in your phone at the beginning of the day and not get it until after school.

Q: What happens if someone just puts a spare phone in the box?

A: If a pupil is seen to be using a phone during a lesson, the above will apply.

Q: What if there are not enough Chromebooks?

A: All pupils have had the option to have a school Chromebook.

Q: What happens if someone sets an alarm to go off on their phone in the box?

A: This will be dealt with in the same way as any other disruption to learning and teaching.

Q: What if I rely on my phone for a genuine reason?

A: All young people will be required to place their phone in one of the foam slots, unless prior consent has been given for them to retain their phone (eg due to a medical condition that requires monitoring using mobile technology), if this is the case, please speak to PCS to get a card to allow you to access your phone during a lesson. This will only be the case for a very small number of pupils.

Q: Is the school responsible if my phone gets broken or damaged or stolen?

A: No. As with bags, clothing, footwear, jewellery, etc pupils bring items to school at their own risk. We do not encourage pupils to bring expensive items for this reason. This includes phones being placed in boxes.