

Our Ref: SMcC/LD  
Your Ref:  
Contact: Siobhan McColgan  
Email: [Siobhan.McColgan2@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Siobhan.McColgan2@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)  
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Education Department  
211 Main Street  
Barrhead  
G78 1SY

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Update on Mobile Phone Use in East Renfrewshire Schools**

I am writing to provide an update on East Renfrewshire Council's approach to mobile phone use in our schools.

The Scottish Government published national guidance on mobile phone use in schools in 2024. This guidance makes clear that schools and local authorities are empowered to take steps to limit mobile phone use – up to and including a full ban – where this supports children and young people's learning, wellbeing and relationships.

More recently, the Scottish Government has also set out its intention to move towards creating phone-free learning environments, with refreshed guidance and future legislation expected to further strengthen this position. We anticipate that this guidance will be published within the next couple of weeks.

East Renfrewshire Council is committed to implementing national policy and want to reassure you that once national guidance is published and fully understood we will finalise our policy on mobile phone and device use and will support schools to implement this in a timely manner. If the national guidance is published within the next few weeks, we expect to finalise our policy and implement it across all schools by the September Weekend. Before schools close for the summer holidays, I wanted to reassure you around our expectations for the start of the new session.

### **Our approach in East Renfrewshire**

- **Primary schools:**  
Mobile phones are not permitted in school at any time. There is no requirement for primary pupils to bring a mobile phone into school. Should a pupil bring their phone into school, it will be safely secured until the end of the day.
- **Secondary schools:**  
We are moving towards implementing a consistent approach in line with national expectations, which includes no mobile phone use in classrooms at any time, unless there is a clearly identified medical or individual need. Full implementation will follow the publication of refreshed national guidance and finalisation of the Council's policy.



## What this means for families

We would like to reassure all parents and carers that in the interim of this policy being finalised:

- There is no need for any child or young person to bring a mobile phone into school.
- Mobile phones are **not** required for learning, timetables, communication or administrative tasks during the school day.
- Schools have well-established systems in place to support all aspects of the school day safely and effectively.

We value the key role parents and carers play in supporting schools to maintain clear expectations, and we appreciate your continued partnership as we strengthen this approach.

Further updates, including our finalised policy, will be shared early in the new session.

Yours sincerely



Siobhan McColgan  
Head of Service (Equality and Equity)

