

West Kilbride Primary School & EYC



Mobile Phone Policy

February 2026



WEST KILBRIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL & EYC



Mobile Phone Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how and when pupils may bring and use mobile phones at school, ensuring the safety, wellbeing and rights of all pupils are respected. Our approach aims to balance:

- the safety and rights of children to contact family outside school where necessary,
- with the need to protect learning time, wellbeing and privacy within the school environment.

This policy has been developed in line with ongoing national guidance on respectful and responsible mobile phone use in Scottish schools, which encourages clear expectations set with pupils, staff, parents and carers.

2. Bringing Phones to School

- Pupils may bring a mobile phone to school if they regularly travel independently (e.g., walking to/from home) and need it to contact parents/carers for safety reasons.
- Phones must remain switched off or on silent before entering the school grounds and kept in pupils' bags for the entire school day. Where Smartwatches are being worn which connect to mobile devices, the mobile device itself must be switched off.
- Phones must not be used during class time, break, or lunch.

3. Use of Mobile Phones During the School Day

Permitted Uses

- Only in exceptional circumstances, and only with authorised staff supervision (e.g., if a pupil needs to contact a parent/carer through the main office).

Prohibited Uses

- Using, checking, looking at or turning on a mobile phone during lessons, break, lunch or transition times.
- Taking photos, videos or recordings of pupils or staff without permission.
- Any use that disrupts learning, breaches privacy, or negatively impacts behaviour or wellbeing.

Rationale: These restrictions are based on wider school and local authority guidance emphasising that mobile devices can be a distraction to learning and wellbeing if used inappropriately during the school day.



4. Consequences of Misuse

If a pupil is found using their phone during the school day (including break and lunch):

1. The phone will be confiscated immediately by a member of staff.
2. It will be turned off and stored securely in the main office.
3. A parent or carer must collect the phone in person from the main office.

This approach ensures the safe return of personal property while encouraging parents/carers to support the school's expectations on responsible use.

Parents/carers are liable for any damage sustained to mobile phones/smartwatches during the school day.

5. Parent Council and Special Events

- For Parent Council events where pupils are signed in and out by adults (e.g. discos): phones should not be brought by pupils at all.
- This requirement does not apply to community-wide events open to families and the wider public (e.g., Christmas fayres), where children remain under adult supervision at all times.

This exception ensures that phones are not brought when adult supervision and sign-in/out procedures are in place, maintaining focus on the event and minimising distraction.

6. Children's Rights Considerations

Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

- Children have the right to be safe and protected from harm, including in how technology is used within school settings.
- The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in decisions affecting them, including school policies.

Our policy aims to uphold these principles by protecting learning time and wellbeing, while acknowledging children's needs for safety communication before and after school.

