

Bellshill Academy



Mobile Phone Policy

Schedule for Review

Policy created after consultation	2021-2022. Updated Aug 2025
The implementation of this policy will be monitored by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Leadership Team• Extended Leadership Team
The Policy will be reviewed annually	Inset August 2025 Survey to learners Aug 2025
Next Review Date	Inset May 2026



Rationale

Mobile phones are a fact of life and almost all of us have one. At Bellshill Academy we completely understand that staff and pupils rely on their phones and that parents appreciate the link it gives them with their young people. However, we must accept that their presence can be a real distraction and therefore detrimental to learning and teaching.

After consultation with parents and pupils we have agreed to the following policy. There are two variations of this policy, one for senior school and one for junior school. Senior School policy will be replaced with the junior school policy as each year moves forward.

Senior School S4-S6

- During lessons, pupils must have their phones in their bags and must keep them there unless given express permission by their teacher or Pupil Support.
- During lessons, staff must also always have their phones completely out of sight.
- Should a pupil not have their bag, their phone should be left in the box on the teacher's desk for the duration of the lesson.
- If, following a warning, a pupil removes their phone from their bag without permission, they must give it to the teacher to keep for the rest of the lesson.
- Should a pupil refuse to hand over their phone, the matter should be referred to the Faculty Head or Principal Teacher immediately. If this does not resolve the matter, a member of SLT should be contacted – the phone will then be stored in the office for parents to collect.
- If pupils leave the class to go to the toilet, they must leave their phone behind

Junior School S1-S3

- On entering each lesson, learners must store their phone in the designated box.
- Staff must follow this routine for every lesson:
 - ✓ Pupils must be asked to line up at the door
 - ✓ Supervise entrance to the classroom as pupils put their phones in the box
 - ✓ Supervise exit of the classroom allowing pupils to retrieve phones as they leave



- During lessons, staff must have their phones out of sight.
- Should a pupil refuse to hand over their phone, the matter should be referred to the Faculty Head or Principal Teacher. If this does not resolve the matter, a member of SLT should be contacted – phone will then be stored in the office for parents to collect.
- Teachers should not leave phone storage boxes unattended unless there is the opportunity to lock the classroom door or if it is unsafe to take them (such as in an emergency or fire).

Phones a tool for learning:

We recognise that mobile phones can, in some circumstances, be a tool for learning. Staff must:

- Plan if phones are going to be used ahead of lessons.
- Assess if phones are necessary to the learning and consider other available ICT or activities.
- Follow normal storage routines until the phone is required and afterwards.
- Plan for alternatives for pupils who do not have phones. Sharing a mobile phone is not practical and is discouraged.
- Be vigilant that phones are being used for intended purposes only and remove if not.

Other Information:

- If pupils leave the class to go to the toilet, they must leave their phone behind as learners tell us this makes them feel safer.
- We fully understand that parents may need to contact their child urgently. The procedure for this remains unchanged: parents should phone the school office who will contact the pupil directly.
- Pupils are currently allowed to use their phones at interval and lunchtimes.



Mobile phones feedback from parents

Almost all: over 90%
74%

Most: 75% - 90%
Less than half: 15% - 50%

Majority: 50% -
A few: up to 15%

Most are worried about their child's constant need to check their phone.

Most agreed that parents need support to tackle the negative effects of mobile phones and social media.

Almost all agreed that young people should not be checking their mobile phones during class time.

Almost all agreed that young people are not able to concentrate on their learning while checking their phones.

Less than half agreed that their child received communication during class from a friend.

Almost all agreed that it is reasonable for a teacher to have sanctions if a young person has their phone out in class when asked not to.

Almost all agreed that it is reasonable for a teacher to ask a young person to have their phone out of sight.

Almost all agreed that it is appropriate for a teacher to have a secure place for young people to store their phone so that the temptation to check phones is removed.

Most agreed that it is reasonable to ask a young person to store their phone in a safe space if they are unable to keep it out of sight in their bag.

Most agreed it reasonable to ask parents not to contact their children during lessons. **Most** agreed it is reasonable to ask that parents contact the main office if they need to contact their child.