

# *Calderside Learning Community*



## Mobile Device Policy

## **Aim**

To help pupils develop a positive and healthy relationship with mobile technology, which promotes its use as a positive aid for learning, communication and organisation, whilst safeguarding pupils and staff against the risks of over and inappropriate use and remove barriers which distract from learning.

## **Links to UNCRC**

This policy links to the following UNCRC articles: • Article 3, 5 and 12

## **Links to other Calderside Learning Community Policies**

- Safeguarding
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviours
- Mobile Device in School Agreement
- Child Protection Policy

## **Introduction**

The recent Scottish Government guidance on mobile phones in Scotland's schools encourages schools to have clear and shared guidance on the use of mobile phones / devices in schools (see references). Here in Calderside Learning Community, we have agreed that moving forward and in line with SLC guidance for schools; all pupils will switch mobile phones off whilst on school grounds and keep devices safely in school bags or other school specific arrangements. South Lanarkshire Council does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to any mobile phone, smart watch or other personal device whilst on school property. This guidance has been produced to bring clarity of expectation for our whole school community.

## **Research**

Mobile phone technology is an integral part of the lives of children and young people and families across Scotland. Data shows that 62% of 8-11 year olds in Scotland have their own mobile phone, rising to 96% for 12-15 year olds (Scottish Government, 2024). Many pupils bring their own mobile phone into school. Used responsibly, mobile devices such as phones and tablets can be powerful tools to enhance learning and teaching, communication and social experiences, and may remove barriers to learning for some pupils. In addition, they can bring a sense of security to parents as their children enjoy more independent activities. However, pupils bringing their own mobile phones into school can create challenges. It is evident that mobile devices, when used inappropriately, can cause disruption to pupils' learning and that of their peers. There are increased concerns over the disruption and the misuse of devices caused in class.

This is echoed by data from the Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022, which found that almost one in three 15 year olds in Scotland (and across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries) reported being distracted using digital devices in most or every class, and around a quarter of pupils got distracted by other pupils using digital devices. This research found that pupils appeared to be less distracted when they switched off notifications from social networks and apps on their digital devices during class, when they did not have their digital device open in class to take notes or search for information, and when they did not feel pressured to be online and answer messages while in class. The Behaviour in Scottish Schools Report (BISSR 2023) also highlighted an increase in more serious behaviours including the abusive use of mobile phones in schools, for example, mobile phones being used to bully or harass pupils and staff. Such behaviour is unacceptable in any context. The misuse of mobile technology, including the filming of incidents which are posted on social media, is also frequently reported in the media, with many demonstrating the potentially devastating impact of such misuse on pupils, their families and the safety and wellbeing of staff.

### **Use of Mobile Devices in Calderside Learning Community**

- **In an emergency, pupils should contact a member of staff who will facilitate communication with parents or carers, if appropriate. Parents needing to urgently contact their child, should contact the school**
- Upon entering school grounds, all pupils should turn off all devices (including smart watches) and keep mobile phones in their own school bags until they leave school grounds at the end of the day. 'Any misuse of devices should be reported to SLT.
- If a pupil is using their phone in the classroom, in the first instance staff will remind the pupil to have their devices turned off and in their school bags.
- If a pupil continues to misuse their device(s), it may be confiscated for the remainder of the day in secure storage in our school office. This will be logged in our school device log (Appendix 1) and parents and/ or carers will be notified of this.
- If a pupil refuses to comply or repeatedly breaches this policy, parents and/ or carers will be contacted to secure or collect the device.
- In cases of serious misuse or potential criminal activity, referrals will be made to external agencies e.g: police.

*Consequences & Restorative Approaches will be aligned with each school's individual Relationships and Communication Policies.*

## **Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of pupils and parents to read the policy and complete the IT Acceptable User Agreement (Appendix 2)

It is the responsibility of pupils to ensure that their mobile phone is switched off and put in their school bag.

All learners must follow the guidelines outlined in this policy and parents/carers should be shown to support the policy of our school and learning community.

Pupils and parents are responsible for the appropriate care and security of their mobile phones.

South Lanarkshire Council accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

## **Exemptions**

We recognise that some pupils rely on their mobile phone to manage a medical condition, for example pupils with diabetes who use their phone to check/regulate blood sugar levels. If this is the case, parents should alert the school as soon as possible to agree for safe use of this.

## **Support and further guidance for parents / carers**

Parents / carers can find support and guidance on the use of mobile phones at the following links:

- UK Safer Internet Centre:  
Advice for parents and carers on phones



- Parent Club Scotland: Setting parental controls on mobile phones / devices



Created: September 2025

## References

Scottish Government, Behaviour in Scottish schools: research report 2023, 14 November 2023



Scottish Government, Mobile phones: guidance for Scotland's schools, 15 August 2024



Scottish Government, Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA 2022): Scotland's results – highlights, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023



### Guidance on Mobile Phones in Scotland's Schools



UNCRC



UNCRC BSL Link



## **Appendix 1 – Device Log**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Date                            |  |
| Child's Name                    |  |
| Mobile phone brand/ colour      |  |
| Received by office (print name) |  |
| Returned to child (print name)  |  |

