

Biggar Learning Community Mobile Device Policy (Draft)



'Building Life Chances'

Rationale: Why do we have this policy?

The following document has been created in line with the guidance provided by [Scottish Government](#) and South Lanarkshire Council.

The policy has been written in partnership with all the primary schools in the community and Biggar High School. This policy was developed in consultation with our Parent Forum, Pupil Council, and staff to reflect our shared community values.

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'mobile devices' covers mobile phones, tablets, smart watches and any other device that can take/make calls and take photos or videos.

Our primary goal is to create a safe, focused, and inclusive learning environment. While we recognise that mobile technology is a central part of modern life, research indicates that its misuse in schools can significantly disrupt concentration, social interaction, and academic performance. By implementing a full restriction policy, we ensure that the school day remains a "distraction-free zone" where pupils can focus on their learning and build positive, face-to-face relationships.

Scope: Who and what does this apply to?

This policy applies to all stakeholders within the school community whenever they are engaged in school activities, within and out with the school grounds. This includes residential and all transition activities with Biggar High School. Pupils do not need personal devices for learning, as the school provides access to Chromebooks, laptops, and tablets for supervised educational activities.

Pupil Rules

Please note, this policy is current at the date of sharing but will be updated as technology available evolves.

The "Away for the Day" Rule

Our school operates a Full Restriction approach:

- **Arrival:** On arrival at school, mobile devices must be switched off and remain in school bags until they can be handed in. Mobile devices should be handed in straight after arrival in the classroom.
- **Storage:** Devices are stored securely within the classroom or school office.
- **Handling:** Pupils are responsible for placing their own device in and retrieving it at the end of the day to ensure they remain accountable for their property.
- **Collection:** Mobile devices are returned only at the end of the school day.
- **Prohibited Areas:** The use of personal devices is strictly prohibited at all times on school grounds (including the playground), particularly in PE areas, changing rooms, and toilets.

Exceptions

We recognise that a "one-size-fits-all" approach may not work for everyone. Exceptions will be managed on a case-by-case basis for:

- **Medical Monitoring:** Pupils who require a device for health reasons (e.g., monitoring epilepsy or diabetes via an app).
- We realise that there may be young carers within our schools but would expect any communication with them to be directed through the school office.

Safety, Privacy, and Etiquette

- **Recording:** The use of cameras or recording functions is strictly prohibited to protect the privacy of pupils and staff. Taking photos or videos without consent is a breach of safeguarding procedures.
- **Digital Responsibility:** Bullying, harassment, or the sharing of inappropriate content, including any AI generated content, will not be tolerated and will be handled under the school's positive relationships and behaviour policies.

Enforcement and Responsibility

- **Consistency:** All staff will apply these rules consistently to ensure fairness.

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- Consequences: Misuse of a device may result in verbal warnings, formal confiscation for the remainder of the day, or parental contact. Serious misuse (e.g., harassment) may involve external agencies.
- Liability: Please note that the council and the school do not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of any personal mobile devices brought onto school property.
- UNCRC: This policy reflects the rights of children and young people under the UNCRC while clarifying the responsibility to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

Staff

All South Lanarkshire Council staff are bound by several policies and expectations:

- [Professional Standards for Teachers - The General Teaching Council for Scotland \(gtcs.org.uk\)](http://gtcs.org.uk)
- [Code of Professionalism and Conduct - The General Teaching Council for Scotland \(gtcs.org.uk\)](http://gtcs.org.uk)
- <http://www.sssc.uk.com/>
- Employee code of conduct
- South Lanarkshire ICT Acceptable Use Protocols
- South Lanarkshire Council Social Media / I.T. Policy

Parents/Carers/Visitors

In relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding, the use of mobile devices within the school grounds and building is prohibited without prior permission.

Permission may be granted for:

- School performances
- School events

However, please note, permission will never be given for these photos to be shared on social media

Permission will only be granted for the recording of formal meetings in exceptional circumstances and if all participants in the meeting give their express permission.

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Useful Links (at time of writing)

[Mobile phones: guidance for Scotland's schools - gov.scot](#)

[Smartphone policies in schools Rahali et al 2024 002 .pdf](#)

[Download Online Safety Policy Templates | 360 degree safe Scotland](#)

[Safeguarding Children - Get Safe Online](#)

[Watch Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones | Stream free on Channel 4](#)

[Developing a Mobile Phones in Schools Policy \(Scotland\)](#)

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