



Balfron High School

Mobile Phones/Device Policy (v7 May 2025)

1. Policy Update

The implementation of this policy **began on 1 January 2025**. Since then we have surveyed parents, staff and pupils, held focus groups and consulted with the Parent Council. The policy will stand as outlined below and roll out to include the use of boxes for S4 from 19 May 2025.

This policy has been updated following:

- [Scottish Government Guidelines](#)
- [Behaviour in Scottish Schools: research report 2023](#)
- Reading: "[The Anxious Generation](#)", Jonathan Haidt
- Staff observations and analysis of data relating to mobile phones
- Assemblies, Pupil surveys, pupil focus groups
- Parent Council presentations & consideration of parent views
- Staff surveys and discussion
- Working group review of all of the above
- Parent information meeting & parental feedback on v4 Policy

2. Rationale for Policy Update

- **Improve focus on learning:** reduce distractions in all classrooms
- **Promote mental health and wellbeing:** reduce time on phones to minimise the risk of addiction, anxiety, depression and associated mental health issues
- Despite previous policy, the majority of staff felt that mobile phone use continued to impact learning due to causing disruption and distraction. A tightening up of our approach is required to benefit all of our young people.

2.1 Managing Mobile Phone Use

- S1-4 pupils must put their mobile phones off or on silent into a safe, cushioned box on the way into each class so that they are out of sight and distraction is avoided.
- The rationale for using the box is to instill a good habit that ensures that phones are not a distraction during the lesson, setting a positive, **distraction-free** classroom culture for learning.



Balfron High School

Mobile Phones/Device Policy (v7 May 2025)

- The predictable and consistent routine of placing the phone in the box reinforces the boundaries of social and academic time and removes the temptation to use a phone in class time.
- S5-6 pupils **must** keep their phones on silent and in their bag during class time.
- If a pupil is seen using their phone in class, **it will be confiscated** by the member of staff who will ensure its safe storage at the school office.
- A demerit will be logged.
- The pupil is able to collect their phone at the **end of the school day**.
- Unless part of an agreed support plan, pupils should **not wear headphones** in class as these are connected to their mobile device. This will also lead to phone confiscation.
- If the young person (S1-4) refuses to put their phone in the box, the Principal Teacher of the subject or member of the SLT will be asked to support and contact will be made with home as appropriate
- Refusal to comply with any aspect of the policy will result in a referral and home contact being made as per our [Relationships Policy](#).

3. Supporting the use of technology to enhance learning

- **All young people have been issued with their own Chromebook. Young people do not require a mobile device in school for learning.**
- Mobile devices (including headphones/earphones/smartwatches) must be switched off and put away with the exception of during break and lunch.
- Mobile devices must be used responsibly in break times and in accordance with this policy.

4. Context

Balfron High School accepts that mobile devices are an integral part of modern day life. We acknowledge that being a rural school, most of our young people are bused to school. Balfron High School accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety.

The widespread ownership of mobile devices among young people requires that learners, school leaders, teachers and parents/carers take steps to ensure that mobile devices are used responsibly in school.



Balfon High School

Mobile Phones/Device Policy (v7 May 2025)

Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, **the school office remains the first point of contact and can ensure your child is reached and assisted quickly with the support of a member of staff.**

5. Acceptable Uses

Emergency Use: Phones may be used in emergencies with staff permission

Medical Use: Pupils who require their device for monitoring a health issue (eg monitoring blood levels) will be allowed to do so. This will be stated in their plan to support teachers' awareness.

ASN Plans: A young person with an ASN who has acceptable use **built into their plan**, eg linked to use of headphones to support a sensory issue.

In our busy, technological culture, it is an important life skill for young people to learn how to limit and control access to their mobile phones. The school will highlight and promote this through assemblies, Mobile March initiatives and the PSE programme.

6. Unacceptable Uses

Learners, on their own or as part of a wider group, must not use a mobile device to engage in personal attacks, harass other persons, post private information about other persons, use messages, take/send/upload or share photos or objectionable images, or make threatening phone calls. This also includes using mobile devices to photograph, record or film anyone without their consent. Learners using mobile devices irresponsibly against other learners will face disciplinary action as per our [Anti-bullying Policy](#).

7. Theft or Damage

- While Balfon High School permits pupils to bring mobile phones to school, we require that they be placed in designated storage during class time to promote a focused learning environment. Please be advised that the school and its staff are not liable for any loss, theft, or damage to mobile phones or other personal electronic devices while on school premises, including those stored in classroom phone collection boxes.



Balfron High School

Mobile Phones/Device Policy (v7 May 2025)

- Any thefts may be reported to our Campus Police Officer
- Students are responsible for the security and care of their personal belongings at all times. It is recommended that families consider personal insurance coverage for valuable items brought to school, as Balfron High School cannot assume responsibility for these items.
- **By bringing a mobile phone to school, students and parents acknowledge and accept this policy.**
- Mobile devices should not be left in bags that are unattended. To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, learners who carry mobile devices are advised to keep them well concealed.
- Mobile devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the school office.
- It is strongly advised that learners use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that their phone cannot be accessed by others.

8. Inappropriate Conduct Under Exam Conditions

Any learner found using a mobile device in exams or assessments will face disciplinary action including having their assessment invalidated. In any SQA exam, the Chief Invigilator will report the incident to the SQA. In such a case, the learner risks not being credited with that exam result or indeed any exam result in that diet. Mobile phones are not permitted in SQA exam rooms even if switched off.