Ysgol Gyfun Bryntirion
Bryntirion Comprehensive

MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

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Approved by Governing body	

Mobile Device Policy

Rationale for a Full Mobile Phone Ban

Our decision to introduce a full mobile device ban is rooted in a commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils. Evidence from schools implementing similar approaches indicates consistent benefits across three key areas:

Learning and Academic Focus

- Mobile phones are a significant source of distraction in lessons and during transitions.
- Removing phones improves attention, engagement and behaviour.
- Pupils are more likely to participate actively without the pull of notifications or social media.
- Reduces low-level disruption linked to covert phone use.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Reduces exposure to social media pressures during the school day.
- Limits opportunities for cyberbullying and online conflict.
- Encourages pupils to be present, reducing anxiety linked to constant connectivity.
- Supports healthier habits around screen use.

Communication and Social Skills

- Encourages face-to-face interaction during break and lunch.
- Supports development of interpersonal and conversational skills.
- Reduces social isolation often linked to individual phone use.
- Promotes a stronger sense of community across the school.

This policy is underpinned by a relational approach: clear boundaries, applied consistently and supported by strong staff-pupil relationships.

Policy Overview

Core Expectations

- **Mobile devices must not be seen or heard at any time.**
- **The ban applies from 8:30am, when pupils enter the school gate, and remains in place until the end of the school day at 3:00pm.**
- **This includes headphones. If a pupil is using headphones connected to a mobile phone, both the headphones and the phone will be confiscated.**

When the Ban Applies

- Before school, onsite from 8:30am
- During form time and lessons
- Movement between lessons
- When accessing toilets
- Break and lunch times
- All school days, including alternative timetable days and school events, such as non-uniform days, Sports Day and other school activities.

Non-Negotiables

- If a device, such as a phone or headphones, is seen or heard, it is confiscated immediately.
- There is no debate or negotiation.
- All staff will apply expectations consistently.
- A collective, whole-school approach is essential for the policy to be successful.

Confiscation and Collection Procedures

If a device is seen or heard:

- **During Lessons**
  - Confiscate the device.
  - Contact Duty/RTL via ClassCharts to collect the device.
- **Outside of Lessons**
  - Take the device to Reception/RTL, or
  - Keep and request collection by Duty/RTL during the next lesson.

- All confiscated devices are stored securely in RTL.
- Any devices dropped off at Reception will be collected by RTL staff and taken to RTL, ready for collection at the end of the day.
- End-of-day collection: all phones will be collected from RTL **after** 3:00pm. **Pupils must not leave lessons early to do this.**

Break and Lunch Arrangements

- Phones must remain out of sight and not be heard at any time.
- Staff supervision is reinforced across social spaces (Duty Rota).
- Toilets and less visible areas are monitored.

Toilet Use During Lessons

- Phones must not be taken to the toilet during lessons.
- A phone-for-pass exchange system will be used.
- Some pupils may genuinely not have phones and will be able to access the toilet without having to hand one in.

Exceptions

- Medical exceptions only (e.g. diabetes monitoring). The pupil must carry an exemption card, and this will also be recorded on their ClassCharts tile.
- No other exceptions are permitted.
- Pupils must not photograph work; alternative mechanisms should be used (e.g. Surface Pro for VI pupils or filming equipment for subjects that need to record performances).

Sixth Form Expectations

- Devices are **only** permitted within the Oriel.
- Devices are not permitted elsewhere on site.

Staff Expectations

- All staff must enforce this policy.
- Staff must support each other in implementing the policy.
- Staff use of mobile phones:

- Mobile phones must not be used in classrooms while teaching, except in an **emergency**.
- Mobile phones should only be used for professional purposes during the school day, apart from designated breaks.
- Some staff may need to use mobile phones for specific operational reasons; however, this should be discreet and limited.

Supporting Systems

- Central drop-off points (Reception and RTL)
- Pupil timetables displayed in each year group area
- Access to required learning platforms on school devices
- Additional school devices where necessary
- Operational support through Duty/RTL staff

School Trips

- The application of this policy on school trips will depend on the nature of the visit and will be determined at the discretion of the trip leader.

Staff Scripts/Prompts to Support Confiscation

1. General confiscation

"You need to follow the phone/device rule now, so please can you pass me the phone/device? You can collect it from RTL at the end of the day. Thank you."

"We just need to follow the phone/device rule — please can you give me the phone/device? Thank you."

"You know the expectation around phones/devices. I now need to take the phone/device. You can collect it from RTL at the end of the day. Thank you."

2. **Compliant Pupil – Praise/Gratitude**

"Thank you for handing that over — I appreciate you following the rule."
"That's really helpful. Thank you for giving me the phone/device promptly."
"I appreciate your cooperation there — thank you for doing the right thing."

3. **Slight Resistance**

"I understand this might be frustrating. The expectation is the same for everyone, but I now need to take the phone/device. Thank you."

"I'm giving you the opportunity to deal with this positively. If the phone/device isn't passed to me, this will be treated as a refusal, which I'd prefer to avoid. Thank you."

"At the moment this is just about the phone/device. If it isn't passed to me, it becomes a refusal, which leads to further consequences."

4. **Escalation of Refusal**

"I've given you the opportunity to resolve this positively. As the phone/device hasn't been passed over, I now need to follow the next step, and this will lead to further sanctions."

"I now need to escalate this, so I'll ask Duty or SLT to support us with this."

"I've given you the opportunity to resolve this. As it hasn't been handed over, I will have to escalate this."

Behaviour for Learning Policy – Mobile Devices

Mobile devices/phones/headphones must not be seen or heard at anytime (zero tolerance) during the school day (Crossing the school gate till 3pm).

How to apply the Policy

If a Mobile Device is seen or heard, the mobile device is confiscated by the staff member. The device will either be taken to Reception/RTL or collected by DUTY/RTL staff. The device will then be collected by the pupil after 3pm from RTL.

Compliant Pupil

The student will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day, and a record will be made of the incident (Classcharts). **The pupil will receive a pastoral detention for not following the device policy.**

Non-Compliant pupil

If a pupil refuses to allow confiscation of a mobile device following a request from a member of staff, **a duty officer will be called (Classcharts) or referred to SLT.**

Stage 1 – Duty Officer/SLT/RTL confiscate phone – pupil given SLT detention for initial refusal.

Stage 2 - If a pupil refuses to allow confiscation of the mobile device by the duty officer/RTL/SLT they will be placed in RTL initially while parents/carers are contacted. If they are then compliant, the phone is confiscated for rest of day and the pupil will remain in RTL for remainder of day for defiance.

Stage 3 - If they continue to refuse following contact with parents/carers then they will be excluded for the rest of the day.

N.B - If this occurs during Lunchtime or Lesson 5, the device will also be confiscated the following day (it will not be kept overnight)

Persistent Offenders

Repeated incidents of mobile device confiscation could result in further sanctions, such as Parental/Carer meetings, Phone Plan (phone locked in RTL each day for a fixed period of time), time in RTL and further Fixed Term Exclusion (FTE). This would be decided by the Pastoral leader and SLT.

Summary

This policy should be read alongside the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and wider safeguarding procedures. It is designed to create a calm, focused and safe learning environment through consistent expectations, strong systems and a shared commitment from all members of the school community.

#TimBryntirion