



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Summary of changes

Staff member responsible	Revision date	Approved by	Approval date	Reason for update	Frequency of review
Rector	August 2021	SSG	August 2021	Annual Review	
Assistant Head - Pastoral	Nov 2023	SSG	Nov 2023	Annual Review	
Assistant Head - Pastoral	August 2024	SSG	Aug 2024	New guidelines from Scot Gov and introduction of BYOD	
Assistant Head - Pastoral	April 2025	SSG	April 2025	Additional information about boarding houses, Prep and Junior	36 months

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LINKS TO UNCRC

This policy links to the following UNCRC articles:

- **Article 13 – Freedom of Expression:** Children have the right to express their views and seek information.
- **Article 16 – Right to Privacy:** This article ensures children's right to privacy, which could be relevant if the policy allows teachers or staff to check pupils' phones.
- **Article 17 – Access to Information from the Media:** Children have the right to access information from a variety of sources, including the internet.
- **Article 28 – Right to Education:** This policy ensures that restrictions on phone use don't interfere with learning opportunities, which is central to the right to education.
- **Article 31 – Right to Leisure, Play, and Culture:** Mobile phones are sometimes used as a tool for relaxation and entertainment.
- **Article 36 – Protection from Other Forms of Exploitation:** This policy helps protect children from inappropriate content or interactions (e.g., cyberbullying), it aligns with this article, which protects children from exploitation.

LINKS TO OTHER DOLLAR ACADEMY POLICIES

This policy has links with the following Dollar Academy policies:

- Anti Bullying Policy
- Discipline Policy
- IT Responsible User Agreement

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 against the risks of over and inappropriate use.

CONTEXT

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 own their own mobile phone, rising to 96% for 12-15 year olds. 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, such as walking to and from school.

However, pupils bringing their own mobile phones into school can create challenges. It is evident that mobile devices, when used inappropriately, are causing disruption to pupils' learning and that of their peers. The Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research (BISSR) 2023 indicated increased concerns over the disruption 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.

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 PHONES IN THE PREP SCHOOL

If a pupil in the Prep School brings a mobile phone to school, it must remain switched off and stored in their school bag for the duration of the school day.

USE OF PHONES IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils in the Junior School must turn their phone off and deposit it in the classroom pouch at the start of the day. It will remain there for the duration of the school day. If a pupil needs to use their phone in an emergency, they must seek permission from a member of school staff.

USE OF PHONES IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

With the introduction of BYOD there is now no need for pupils to be on their mobile phones during lessons or registration.

- **In registration**, all pupils should deposit their mobile phone in the classroom pouches. This is compulsory. Any misuse of mobile phones in registration should be reported on ISAMs using the Rewards and Conduct Manager.
- **In classrooms**, the use of pouches for pupils to deposit phones at the beginning of the lesson is compulsory.
- If a pupil is caught using their phone in your classroom you should confiscate their phone and place it, upturned, on your desk, in their sight. Please flag this using the Rewards and Conduct Manager on ISAM
- The phone should be returned at the end of the lesson.
- It is envisaged that the consistent use of phone/device pockets should substantially reduce the need for confiscation during classes.

Pupils can use phones only at **break, lunch and after school**. There will no longer be any coloured Zoned areas, but it goes without saying that mobile phones are prohibited in changing rooms and the swimming pool areas.

Form VI pupils can use their phone in the Common Room.

USE OF PHONES IN THE BOARDING HOUSES

Access and use of mobile phones in the boarding houses is dictated by age, with greater responsibility and freedoms being given to older pupils.

Pupils up to and including Form III, are required to hand their mobile phones (and other electronic devices) into staff at set times. These are:

- For the duration of prep time in the evening (6pm – 7.30/8pm)
- At bedtime until post breakfast time, the following morning

Pupils in Form IV and above are granted more responsibility with their mobile devices and are not required to hand them in. However, their devices should not be used during prep time or after their bedtime. Any misuse of mobile devices during these times will result in their confiscation for a set period. Any extended period of confiscation would be communicated to parents.