

62468

A copy of the local authority's current policy on the use of mobile phones by pupils in schools.

Guidance on mobile phone use by pupils in schools is currently in development. This follows the Education, Children and Families Committee decision to implement a bell to bell ban in all Edinburgh Schools from August 2026.

The decision was agreed on 9 June 2026 and the report and webcast are in the public domain.

[Mobile Phones in Schools !\[\]\(e6e72ec59f71b2fe33b5fdb552a8c883_img.jpg\) PDF 129 KB](#)

[View item 7.2 as HTML 95 KB](#)

The Committee decision was:

- 1) To note the high response rate to the Consultation on Mobile Phones in Schools
- 2) To note the overall citywide and Learning Community responses from the different stakeholder groups
- 3) To agree to procuring lockable cabinets for all primary schools
- 4) To agree to restricting mobile phone use in all secondary schools from the start of the learning day until the end of the learning day, to be implemented from August 2026. Whilst recognising the importance of medical exemptions and other necessary circumstances that need to be catered for.
- 5) To agree that lockable pouches are procured for all pupils in Edinburgh secondary schools.
- 6) To agree that the same restrictions should be applied to smart watches
- 7) To agree that officers and schools work together to develop clear guidance on exemption as agreed through the GIRFEC planning process, e.g. health reasons, caring responsibilities and to help manage neurodiversity
- 8) To agree to receiving an update report in June 2027
- 9) To note committee hopes that a recurring amount of will be allocated for replacement pouches each year, committee also recommends exploring other options for payments of pouches, including payments to be voluntary made by parents and carers of pupils. Committee asks for a report in two cycles (excluding special committees) to Education, Children and Families committee to explore options for the next financial year.
- 10) To ask that officers investigate if further work is needed within our schools regarding responsible use of technology such as mobile phones. That this work be updated to Education, Children & Families committee in one cycle via a Business Bulletin update.
- 11) To agree that although the default policy for Edinburgh High Schools is a school day without smartphones on school grounds for all pupils, without the need for an exemption, senior leadership teams in individual high schools will have the right to develop their own school policy regarding senior phase (S5-S6) pupils' access to their mobile phones during break, lunchtime and independent study time while prioritising safe learning environments for all pupils.

- 12) To agree to restricting mobile phone use in all secondary schools during the entire school day.
- 13) To request that the exemptions policy, allowing certain pupils to use their mobile phones during learning-time, including for medical reasons, to support young carers and to support neurodiversity, is circulated to committee members before the restriction is implemented in August and then reported at the next committee in September.