

Glengowan Primary School Mobile Device Policy (January 2026)

Introduction

This policy has been created by Glengowan Primary School to establish clear, fair, and effective guidelines for mobile device use within our school community. This document aligns with the guidance provided by South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources, which emphasises a collaborative approach involving pupils, staff, parents, and carers.

While mobile technology can offer benefits, such as access to learning tools and communication aids, its misuse can disrupt learning, negatively impact well-being, and pose safety risks. Research, including the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Study (2023) and PISA 2022, has highlighted the challenges of digital distractions. The purpose of this policy is to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment.

Key Principles

Our policy is founded on the following core principles:

- **Respectful and Responsible Use:** *We promote the respectful and responsible use of mobile devices by all members of our school community.*
- **Empowerment and Local Decision-Making:** *As a school, we are best positioned to determine what works for our learners and have created a policy that reflects our community's unique needs and values.*
- **Inclusion and Equity:** *Our policy ensures that no pupil is disadvantaged. We will make exceptions for students with specific needs, such as medical conditions, on a case-by-case basis.*
- **Learning-Focused Environment:** *The primary goal of this policy is to protect and support high-quality learning, teaching, and assessment.*
- **Wellbeing and Safety:** *We are committed to protecting the wellbeing of pupils and staff by addressing issues like cyberbullying, harassment, and inappropriate content.*

Permitted and Prohibited Use

*At Glengowan Primary School, we have adopted a **Full Restriction** approach to mobile devices during the school day. This means that mobile phones and smart watches will not be used as a learning tool in our school. The following outlines the permitted and prohibited uses of mobile devices:*

Permitted Use:

- *For medical monitoring, such as for pupils with diabetes.*
- *During travel to and from school, unless otherwise restricted.*

Prohibited Use:

- *During lessons, breaks, and lunchtimes.*
- *For recreational purposes during class time, such as gaming or social media.*

- *For taking photos, videos, or audio recordings without the consent of those being filmed or photographed.*
- *For contacting parents or carers during the school day. All emergency communication must be handled through the school office.*

All mobile devices, including smartwatches and tablets, must be switched off and stored securely in school bags, during the school day. Devices should have all notifications turned off while at school. In the event of an emergency, such as a fire drill, the priority is pupil safety and evacuation, not retrieving mobile phones.

Consequences of Misuse

To ensure clear expectations and consistency, our staff will consistently enforce this policy. Consequences for misuse and non-compliance will be proportionate and clearly communicated. These may include:

- *Confiscation of the device for the remainder of the day, with secure storage and return procedures.*
- *Parental contact if a pupil refuses to comply or repeatedly breaches the policy.*
- *Referral to external agencies, such as the police, in cases involving serious misuse or potential criminal activity.*

Emergency Contact and Legal Considerations

In an emergency, pupils must contact a member of staff who will facilitate communication with parents or carers. If a parent needs to contact their child urgently, they should call the school office. The use of mobile devices is subject to all relevant laws regarding data protection and online safety. Taking photos, videos, or audio recordings without consent may breach privacy laws and our school's safeguarding procedures. The council does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones while on school property.

Review date: January 2027