



Mobile Phone Procedure

Session 26/27

Updated August 2026

Revision Date: 27/28

"Edinburgh will become one of the first local authorities in the country to introduce widespread restrictions on mobile phone use in schools at the start of the new school year in August.

Councillors at Education, Children and Families Committee agreed a 'bell to bell' ban of mobile phones, with lockable pouches to be introduced in every secondary school in the city. Learners at secondary schools will have to place mobile phones in lockable pouches for the duration of the school day. Primary school aged pupils will have to lock mobile phones away in cabinets."

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/14419/-bell-to-bell-ban-on-mobile-phones-in-all-edinburgh-schools-from-august>

In St John's we understand that many families wish their child to carry a phone to help ensure safety in travelling to and from school.

- Children do not need to have a mobile phone in the school building. All communications with parents/carers can be successfully achieved through the school office.
- All communications from parents/carers in relation to their child should always be made via the school office telephone number or email account.
- All communication from a child to their parent/carer should always be made via the school office.

The City of Edinburgh Council is not responsible for the loss or damage of any personal device brought on to the school site.

Our procedure:

UN convention on the Rights of the Child Article 16: Protection of Privacy

"Every child has the right to privacy. The law must protect children's privacy, family, home, communications and reputation (or good name) from any attack."

Children in P6&7 can bring a mobile phone to school with conditions below:



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- ✓ Devices should be turned off **upon arrival at the school gate** every morning and remain off for the duration of the school day. It can be turned on again when the child has left school grounds at the end of the day.
- ✓ Each morning mobile devices will be stored in the identified, secure place within the classroom provided by class teachers, until the end of the school day.
- ✓ If any photographs or recordings of another child or a member of staff are discovered on a child's device, we will remove the device from them and contact parents and ask them to collect the device from the school office. The photograph or recording must be deleted from the device before it leaves the school.
- ✓ Smart watches (and any other personal device that has the facility to make and receive calls, video chat and text messages) are regarded as being the same as a mobile phone and so are included in the policy as above. Wearable technology aka "Wearables" must have all communication functions/settings turned off.

Pupils in P5 and below:

Parents/Carers should send an email to admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk to discuss reasons why their child requires a mobile device in school.

The school references the guidance issued by the Scottish Government which is available here. Click link to access: [Guidance on Mobile Phones in Scotland's Schools](#)

Pupils with Medical Conditions

Should a pupil need access to a phone/device for a medical condition, please speak to a member of the office team in the first instance who will direct you to the most appropriate member of staff.