



Williamwood
High School

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

The use of Mobile Phones and Devices

Interim Policy

Respect * Ambition * Kindness

Contents

Williamwood High School's Aims	p.2
Policy Context and Purpose	p.3
National and Local Context	p.4&5
Exemptions	p.6
Consequences for Breach of Policy	p.7&8
School trips and residentials	p.9
Background and Legislation	p.10



Williamwood High School's Aims

The school promotes high expectations and standards, which create an inclusive environment, where all are encouraged to strive to achieve their full potential. The positive ethos across the school and a high degree of commitment shown by our staff, our young people and our parents, as well as the wider community, allow the young people of Williamwood to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

Our school values of Respect, Ambition and Kindness underpin the life and work of the school. We recognise learners' successes in living the school values through their actions and choices. Our school vision of 'Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow' aims to develop the skills which will enable our young people to become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors



Policy Context and Purpose

The Scottish Government, as part of its public health approach to protecting children and young people from online harm, has issued national guidance on restricting the personal use of mobile phones in schools, ahead of proposed changes to legislation. The national guidance was published in June 2026.

In response to this guidance, and in line with the interim position established by East Renfrewshire Council, Williamwood High School has developed this Mobile Phone Policy to reflect the needs and context of our school community. The policy has been developed in consultation with young people, families and staff.

The policy establishes a clear and consistent approach to the personal use of mobile phones within the school. It is intended to support a positive learning environment and promote the wellbeing, safety and relationships of all members of the school community.

All staff and young people are expected to adhere to the requirements of this policy consistently. Staff will ensure that expectations are clearly communicated and will explain to young people why behaviours that do not comply with the policy are unacceptable. Where necessary, appropriate and proportionate consequences will be applied in accordance with the school's established procedures.

The policy will be reviewed in light of any changes to national guidance, legislation or East Renfrewshire Council policy.

National and Local Context

National Direction

The Scottish Government published updated national guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools in June 2026 as part of its wider public health approach to protecting young people from online harm.

The national guidance establishes that, during lessons and transitions between classes, mobile phones should not be used and should be switched off and stored away in a blazer pocket or in a school bag.

Local authorities and schools were encouraged to consider whether wider school restrictions were appropriate to their local context for example, phones not being used at breaktime and/or lunchtime.

A National Consultation on the use of mobile phones in schools has now been launched. The outcome of this consultation will inform the development of legislation in this area.

East Renfrewshire Council: Local Interim Response

Pending the outcome of the national consultation and the development of legislation, East Renfrewshire Council has established the following interim position:

- **Primary schools:** Mobile phones should not be used during the school day.
- **Secondary schools:** Mobile phones should not be used during lessons, learning time or moving between classes.
- **Implementation:** The interim arrangements will be introduced from September 2026.
- **Exemptions:** Appropriate exemptions are in place to support individual needs and circumstances.

Williamwood High School: Interim Response

In line with the East Renfrewshire Council interim position, consultation with young people, staff and parents and taking account of the context of Williamwood High School, the following arrangements will apply:

- **During lessons, learning time and transitions between classes:** Mobile phones must not be used.
- **During lessons:** Mobile phones must be switched off and stored out of sight, in a school bag or blazer pocket.
- **Before school, during breaktime and at lunchtime:** Young people may use their mobile phones.



- **Implementation:** These arrangements will take effect from **Monday 5 October 2026**.
- **Exemptions:** Appropriate exemptions will apply where a mobile phone is required to support an identified individual need or circumstance. Exemptions will be agreed and managed in accordance with the school's procedures.

These expectations apply consistently across the school and are intended to support learning, wellbeing, safety and positive relationships. Staff will communicate the expectations clearly and respond consistently where the policy is not followed.

This interim position will be reviewed in response to any changes to Scottish Government guidance, legislation or East Renfrewshire Council policy.



Williamwood High School Exemptions

In a limited number of circumstances, access to a mobile phone or personal device during the school day may be necessary to support an individual young person's health, wellbeing, additional support needs or personal circumstances.

Exemptions may apply where access to a mobile phone or personal device is required for purposes including, but not limited to:

- **Medical needs**, for example where a device is required to monitor or manage a medical condition such as diabetes or a heart condition.
- **Additional Support Needs (ASN)**, where access to a device forms part of an agreed support strategy.
- **Young Carer responsibilities**, where access to a device is necessary due to an identified caring responsibility.

Management of Exemptions

All exemptions must:

- Be **agreed in advance** by the appropriate member of school staff.
- Be **formally recorded** within the relevant ASN overview and/or the young person's Child's Wellbeing Plan, where appropriate.
- Be **communicated clearly to all relevant staff** to ensure the exemption is understood and applied consistently.
- Specify, where appropriate, the **circumstances and extent** to which access to the device is permitted.

Exemptions will be reviewed as required to ensure that they remain appropriate to the young person's individual circumstances and support needs.



Williamwood High School Consequences for Breach of Policy

Where a young person uses a mobile phone or personal device in breach of this policy, the following procedure will apply:

1. **Initial instruction:** The member of staff will instruct the young person to switch off the mobile phone and place it in an envelope which will then be sealed and taken by the young person to the school office.
If the young person does not comply with the instruction, the matter will be referred to the Senior Leadership Team.
Initial storage: The young person's name, house group, year group, and time of confiscation will be written on the front of the envelope which will then be sealed.
2. **Secure storage:** Confiscated mobile phones will be taken by the young person to the main school office, where they will be stored securely until the end of the school day.
3. **Return of mobile phone:** For a first or subsequent breach, parental/carer collection will not be required. The mobile phone will be returned to the young person at the end of the school day.
4. **Parent/carer notification:** Parents/carers will be informed via text when a breach occurs.
5. **Recording of breach:** Every breach will be recorded on the school's recording system. This will provide a centralised record, enabling staff to identify repeated breaches and implement the appropriate escalation measures.
6. **Repeated breaches:** Where a young person has three recorded breaches within the same school term, parents/carers will be contacted. The young person will then be required to hand their mobile phone into the school office at the beginning of each school day and collect it at the end of the day for an agreed period.
7. **Further breaches:** Following three recorded breaches, any subsequent breach will result in a meeting with parents/carers to discuss appropriate next steps and consequences.
8. **Exemptions:** Alternative arrangements will be agreed and documented as part of an exemption or individual support plan. (Page 6)



The application of these consequences will be proportionate and consistent with the school's wider approaches to relationships, behaviour and inclusion. Where a young person's individual circumstances or additional support needs may affect their ability to comply with this policy, these factors will be taken into consideration, and appropriate support will be provided.



Williamwood High School Trips and Residentials

The use of mobile phones on school trips and residentials will be determined on a trip-by-trip basis, taking account of the educational, safeguarding and wellbeing needs of the young people involved.

The following procedures will apply:

- The Trip Leader, in consultation with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, will determine whether mobile phones may be brought on the trip.
- The decision, including any specific conditions relating to the use of mobile phones, will be communicated to young people and their parents/carers in advance of the trip.
- Where mobile phones are permitted, the Trip Leader will establish clear expectations regarding when mobile phones must be switched off, stored securely, collected or may be used.
- Any arrangements will reflect the educational purpose of the trip, safeguarding considerations and the wellbeing and individual needs of young people.
- As is standard, where contact with home is required, parents/carers should ordinarily communicate with the school through the designated school staff member or Trip Leader, rather than contacting young people directly during the trip.
- Any agreed exemptions or individual arrangements relating to mobile phone use will continue to apply, subject to appropriate risk assessment and the specific circumstances of the trip.



Background and Legislation

This policy makes use of current documentation that has supported our strategic planning. In particular, we have utilised the following documents:

- Health and Wellbeing in Curriculum for Excellence: [Health and wellbeing | Curriculum areas | Curriculum for Excellence | Education Scotland](#)
- Getting it Right for Every Child: [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [Schools - fostering a positive, inclusive and safe environment: guidance - gov.scot](#)
- [Included, Engaged and Involved Part 1: Improving Attendance in Scotland's Schools - gov.scot](#)
- [Included, engaged and involved part 2: preventing and managing school exclusions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [Improving relationships and behaviour in schools: ensuring safe and consistent environments for all. Joint action plan 2024 - 2027](#)
- Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research 2023: [Behaviour in Scottish schools: research report 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [Anti-bullying guidance for adults working with children and young people - gov.scot](#)
- [Decision-making: children and young people's participation - gov.scot](#)
- East Renfrewshire Council Education Department Interim Policy on the use of devices and mobile phones
- Scottish Government Mobile Phone Guidance for Schools – update June 2026