

Policy on mobile devices

The widespread ownership of mobile devices among young people requires that schools, students, and parents/carers take steps to ensure responsible usage.

This policy defines the meaning of responsible usage at Ballakermeen High School. Mobile devices are defined as phones, iPods, iPads, tablets and similar devices.

Students who choose to bring a mobile devices into school must comply with the following rules:

- Students are allowed to bring mobile devices into school but they must be switched off and out of sight during school hours (8.50 am - 3.20 pm).
- Any student seen using a mobile device during school hours (the exception being in the classroom, under a teacher's supervision) will have the device confiscated and placed in a secure area in reception.
- Mobile devices may be used in the classroom but only with the permission of the teacher and for learning purposes.
- Students who need to contact home during school hours may do so by going to reception and asking for a message to be passed on to their parent/carer. If it is urgent, students can visit a Head of Year or member of the Senior Leadership Team and make a call from their office.
- Parents who need to contact their child at school should contact reception and a message will be relayed.
- Liability for any loss, damage or theft of any device is not, under any circumstance, the responsibility of the school or its staff.
- The use of school-owned electronic devices (for example, iPads and laptops) is strictly under the supervision of staff and in line with the DESC's Acceptable Usage Policy.

Sanctions

- Students who infringe the rules set out in this document will face having their devices confiscated by staff. Their mobile devices will be taken to a secure place within the school and parents/carers will be informed.

On the first occasion, students will be allowed to collect their device after school.

On subsequent occasions, parents will be asked to collect the confiscated device.

Persistent infringements may lead to more significant sanctions.

- Failure to hand over a mobile device to a member of staff on request will be viewed as a serious breach of the school's discipline code.

Parental support in ensuring appropriate usage is much appreciated.