# Perth and Kinross implements mobile phone ban in classrooms and exams



Mobile phones are set to be banned in all classrooms and examination environments across Perth and Kinross, following a decision taken by local councillors on Wednesday to implement a new mobile device policy. This policy applies not only to students but also to teachers, marking a significant shift in the management of digital device use within the education system.

The policy explicitly prohibits the use of mobile phones during lessons unless teachers grant specific permission for educational purposes. Furthermore, mobile devices will not be allowed in examination rooms unless their use is required for a particular examination and has been approved by the school's Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) coordinator.

In the event of emergencies, the schools will serve as the primary communication channel for parents or guardians attempting to contact their children during school hours, emphasizing that it is unnecessary for parents to reach out via their child's mobile device.

Councillors have mandated that while schools can adapt the policy to their specific circumstances, they must adhere to three key standards "without exception". This includes the prohibition of mobile phones during lessons and exams, as well as defining the school office as the sole contact point for parents in emergencies.

The policy does make allowances for certain exemptions. For instance, students who require mobile phones for medical reasons, such as monitoring diabetes, will be permitted to use their devices as necessary. Additionally, young carers and pupils with additional support needs or disabilities may also be excused from the ban.

Teachers are also expected to comply with the new rules by turning their mobile phones off or placing them on silent during teaching times. The policy is set to be in effect until 2028, at which point it will be reviewed.

The development of this policy comes after consultations involving local staff, parents, and input from over 2,000 pupils. It has been suggested that the rise in mobile phone ownership among young people—research indicates that 96% of 12-15-year-olds and 62% of 8-11-year-olds own their own devices—has necessitated the implementation of stricter regulations.

Councillor John Rebbeck, the convener of Perth and Kinross Council’s Learning and Families Committee, expressed optimism about the new measures, stating, “Above all I hope it allows space for our young learners to be kinder to each other.” This sentiment reflects a growing concern that while digital devices can enhance learning, their misuse can lead to disruptions, bullying, and harassment within educational settings.

Prior to this policy, many primary schools in Perth and Kinross had already established their own no mobile phone use policies during school hours, including during breaks and lunch. In these instances, students often secure their phones in bags or in designated areas such as teachers' locked storage. In contrast, the application of mobile phone rules at secondary schools has been less consistent, particularly given the higher prevalence of mobile phone use among older students. For example, Bertha Park School announced last year that it would block its pupils' access to school WiFi as part of its own efforts to manage device use.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/5214638/mobile-phone-ban-perth-kinross-schools/> - Corroborates the decision to ban mobile phones in classrooms and examination environments across Perth and Kinross.
* <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/24535/New-mobile-phone-policy-for-Perth-and-Kinross-Schools> - Supports the development of a new mobile device policy for schools in Perth and Kinross, focusing on responsible device use.
* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/5143181/bertha-park-school-mobile-phones-wifi-block/> - Mentions Bertha Park School's move to block WiFi access as a measure to manage mobile phone use, reflecting broader local efforts.
* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/5143181/bertha-park-school-mobile-phones-wifi-block/> - Notes the broader context of mobile phone use management in Perth and Kinross schools, including potential future changes.
* <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/24535/New-mobile-phone-policy-for-Perth-and-Kinross-Schools> - Describes consultations involving staff, parents, and pupils that informed the new policy.