# Moray to ban mobile phones in primary schools and restrict use in secondary from new term



A forthcoming crackdown on mobile phone usage in schools across Moray has been confirmed, with new guidelines set to be implemented at the start of the new term later this year. The Moray Council has taken proactive steps to update its policies regarding mobile devices, reflecting growing concerns over their impact on education and student wellbeing. This follows a noticeable decline in the enforcement of existing phone regulations in recent years, prompting council members to act decisively.

Councillors have expressed their support for the proposed ban, believing that enhanced rules are essential for creating an optimal learning environment. Sheila Brumby, a supply teacher in Moray, voiced strong approval during an education committee meeting, stating that mobile phones significantly disrupt learning. She recounted instances where students have received messages during lessons, which she deemed unacceptable. The extent of distractions caused by phones has led to sentiments among some educators that the benefits of these devices in an educational setting are minimal at best.

The new guidelines stipulate an outright ban on mobile phones in primary schools, while secondary school students will be required to keep phones switched off and out of sight during school hours—an important distinction that reflects the council's aim to balance safety and learning. The policy allows for exceptions on medical grounds, ensuring that young carers or students with additional support needs can maintain their necessary communications.

Consultation with the local community has indicated significant backing for the initiative. A survey revealed that 73% of the 3,283 respondents were in favour of a mobile phone ban in schools, highlighting a shared concern about the detrimental effects these devices can have on attention span and social interactions among students. This community input is encouraging, yet the implementation of these guidelines raises questions about school-specific policies that will be shaped by individual head teachers.

Notably, Moray is part of a wider trend across Scotland. Last month, Perth and Kinross became the first council in the country to enforce a blanket ban on mobile phones in classrooms. Furthermore, educational institutions like Inverness Royal Academy have resorted to blocking phone signals within their buildings, while others require students to secure their devices in pouches during the day. Anecdotal evidence from schools implementing such restrictions has pointed to improvements in school culture, including better social interactions and reduced distractions, further validating the need for such guidelines in Moray.

However, the new restrictions are not without concern. Some councillors highlighted potential risks involved with students travelling to school without phones, particularly those who walk alone. Elgin North councillor Amber Dunbar articulated worries about student safety, suggesting that having a mobile device could provide assurance for both students and their families. The head of education for Moray, Vivienne Cross, reassured the committee that parents bear the responsibility of ensuring their child's safety en route to school. By addressing the comprehensive nature of the guidelines, including coverage of smartwatches, she underscored the council's commitment to reducing loopholes that could undermine the initiative.

Kathleen Robertson, chairwoman of the education committee, acknowledged the integral role mobile devices play in modern life but reiterated the necessity of navigating the associated dangers. By addressing issues such as bullying and harassment linked to phone use, the council aims not only to improve classroom dynamics but also to safeguard student wellbeing.

As the clocks prepare to tick towards the start of the new term, Moray's mobile phone policy stands as a testament to the balancing act educators and administrators face in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Armed with community backing, new guidelines are set to reshape the approach to mobile phone usage, fostering an environment where education can take precedence over distractions.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9
2. Paragraphs 2, 4, 8
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 7
5. Paragraph 7
6. Paragraph 4
7. Paragraph 7

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6755679/mobile-phone-ban-moray-schools/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-consults-on-mobile-phone-policy-in-schools> - Moray Council is consulting on a new mobile phone policy for schools, aiming to promote responsible use of mobile technology. The proposed policy includes a ban on mobile phones in primary schools, with exceptions for medical reasons, and requires secondary school students to keep phones switched off and out of sight during school hours, except for health-related needs. The consultation period is open until March 28, 2025, inviting feedback from parents, carers, pupils, and school staff. ([newsroom.moray.gov.uk](https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-consults-on-mobile-phone-policy-in-schools?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.newshub.co.uk/automotive/news-automotive/2025/03/21/moray-schools-consider-mobile-phone-ban-to-enhance-learning-environment/> - Moray schools are considering a mobile phone ban to improve the learning environment. The proposed guidelines suggest prohibiting primary school students from bringing mobile phones to school, except for medical reasons, and requiring secondary school students to keep phones switched off and out of sight during school hours, with exceptions for health-related needs. A public survey is open until March 28, 2025, to gather opinions from the community. ([newshub.co.uk](https://www.newshub.co.uk/automotive/news-automotive/2025/03/21/moray-schools-consider-mobile-phone-ban-to-enhance-learning-environment/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phone-use-to-be-banned-in-schools-in-england> - The UK Department for Education announced new guidance recommending a ban on mobile phone use during the school day in England, including break times. The policy aims to tackle disruptive behavior and online bullying while boosting attention during lessons. It aligns England with countries like France, Italy, and Portugal, which have already implemented similar bans. The guidance includes limited exemptions, such as for medical reasons. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phone-use-to-be-banned-in-schools-in-england?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/science-and-technology/2023/12/17/scottish-pupils-say-wellbeing-has-improved-since-school-mobile-classroom-ban/> - Pupils at Gordonstoun School in Elgin, Moray, reported improved wellbeing following the introduction of a mobile phone ban in classrooms. The ban, implemented in September 2023, requires students to leave phones in boarding houses during school hours. Students and staff have observed a positive shift in campus culture, with increased face-to-face interactions and reduced distractions. ([shropshirestar.com](https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/science-and-technology/2023/12/17/scottish-pupils-say-wellbeing-has-improved-since-school-mobile-classroom-ban/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/mobile-phones-could-be-banned-in-moray-primary-schools-377535/> - Moray Council is considering a policy that could ban mobile phones in primary schools and limit their use in secondary schools. The proposed guidelines suggest prohibiting primary school students from bringing mobile phones to school, except for medical reasons, and requiring secondary school students to keep phones switched off and out of sight during school hours, with exceptions for health-related needs. A public survey is open until March 28, 2025, to gather opinions from the community. ([forres-gazette.co.uk](https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/mobile-phones-could-be-banned-in-moray-primary-schools-377535/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/nairn-academys-mobile-phone-ban-sees-positive-results-after-first-week-372014/> - Nairn Academy reported positive feedback after implementing a mobile phone ban. The ban requires students to keep phones switched off and out of sight during school hours. After the first week, the school observed increased social interaction and reduced distractions among students. ([forres-gazette.co.uk](https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/nairn-academy-s-mobile-phone-ban-sees-positive-results-after-372014/?utm_source=openai))