



WICK HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING - AMBITION - RESPECT

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Learning - Ambition - Respect

Mobile Phone Policy



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Supporting a positive learning culture at Wick High School by creating a safe, respectful environment where all pupils can thrive and succeed.



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Our Policy

Purpose and Rationale

At Wick High School, we are committed to creating a positive learning environment for all our students. In line with recent Scottish Government recommendations, our mobile phone policy aims to support consistent educational experiences and ensure the safety and well-being of our school community.

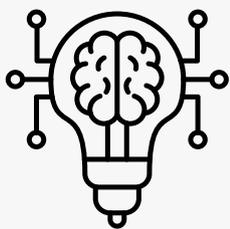
We recognise the importance of technology in students' lives. However, the presence of mobile phones in school creates a distraction from learning. By reducing this distraction, we aim to enhance learning, prioritise social interaction, and promote safety and wellbeing.

When?

The New Policy will begin on 19th August 2025

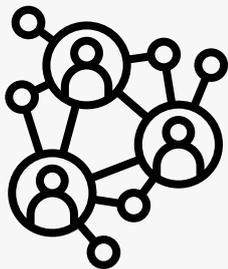


Why?



Enhanced Learning

Encouraging students to focus and engage fully in lessons without the distraction of devices, alerts, and notifications.



Prioritise Social Interaction

Creating opportunities for students to communicate and build positive relationships face-to-face.



Promote Safety and Wellbeing

Reducing potential risks from inappropriate comments, contacts, and images associated with unsupervised use of mobile phones.



Prepare Students for the World of Work

Address growing concerns raised by employers about the impact of mobile phone overuse on young people's ability to stay focused, manage responsibilities, and remain productive in the workplace.



How?

Phone Storage

Pupils should leave phones at home or store them switched off in bags or lockers while on school grounds.



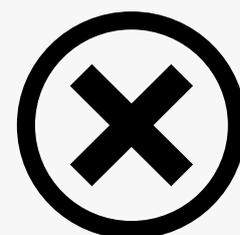
Emergency Contact

Parents/carers should contact the school office if urgent communication is needed. Pupils will be supported in contacting home where necessary.



Refusal to Follow the Policy

Pupils using phones on school grounds will be asked to hand them over. These will be stored at the school office and returned at the end of the day. Parents will be informed.



Persistent issues will lead to meetings with parent carers to find a resolution.

Note: Our Mobile Phone Policy also applies to other smart devices used for communication and social media, such as watches used for calling and messaging, games consoles, and tablets.



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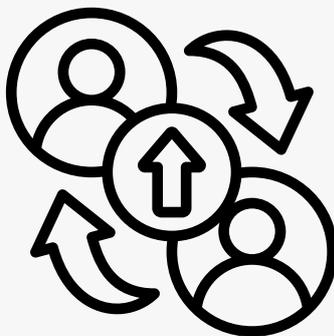
Working together

We understand that change takes time. Open communication between staff, pupils, and families will help ensure success. Our aim is to create a learning environment free from the distractions and pressures associated with mobile devices.

Many schools across Highland and Scotland have seen positive results from similar policies, including:



**Improved
Focus**



**Increased
Social
Interaction**



**Happier and
more engaged
Learners**

Thank you for your support in creating a calm, focused learning environment at Wick High School.

Parent/Carer

FAQs

My child needs their phone for travelling to and from school. What do I do?

Pupils may bring phones, but these must be switched off and stored in bags/lockers at all times on the school grounds.

My child needs a phone for their timetable. What do they do if they have forgotten their timetable?

All pupils will be offered a copy of their timetable at registration. Spare copies will also be available in registration folders and at reception. Staff are always happy to help.

How do I contact my child if I have an urgent message?

Parents/carers can call the school directly. Staff will relay messages where required. Where sensitive or difficult news needs to be shared, support from guidance staff can be arranged.

What will happen to my child's phone if it is used in class and confiscated?

Confiscated phones will be taken to the school office, labelled, and stored securely in the safe. They will be returned at the end of the school day.

Parent/Carer

FAQs

My child has a medical condition and needs access to their phone. What do I do?

Please contact the school. Where there are verified medical needs, pupils may carry phones, provided they remain out of sight and are used appropriately.

How can I support my child in using social media responsibly?

Regularly check your child's device or consider using parental control/mirroring apps.

Useful resources include:

- UK Safer Internet Centre:
saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/resources-for-parents-and-carers
- NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online:
nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety
- Internet Matters Social Media Guide for Parents:
internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-safety-checklist

Parent/Carer

FAQs

I'd like more information about the policy or to discuss specific concerns.

Please email any questions to:
wick.high@highland.gov.uk

How can I help prepare my child for the new policy starting in August?

You can help your child to prepare by:

- Ensuring your contact details are up to date.
- Ensure they have funds in their catering account or cash for any unseen circumstances
- Provide a wallet or purse for carrying money
- Encourage independence in organising equipment, plans and travel.

We ask that parents and carers also keep mobile devices out of sight when on school grounds.

Pupil

FAQs

What if I forget my timetable?

You will be offered a copy of your timetable at registration or ask at reception/school office.

How do I contact home in an emergency?

Report to the school office. Staff can contact home or allow you to speak to your parent/carer when appropriate.

What happens if I use my phone and it's taken from me?

You'll be asked to hand it over. It will be labelled and stored at the school office. It will be returned at the end of the day.

Can I get it back at lunch if I'm going out?

No. Phones used during the day will be kept until the end of the school day.

What if I need my phone for medical reasons?

Speak to your guidance teacher. Where appropriate, you may carry your phone as long as it remains out of sight and is used responsibly.

Pupil

FAQs

What do I use if I usually search for things on my phone in class?

Use your Chromebook, which should be brought to school fully charged. It can be used to access resources, search for images, quotes, data, etc.

My teacher uses their phone – isn't that unfair?

Staff will be expected to model appropriate behaviour by limiting their use of mobile phones, particularly when in the presence of pupils. However, it is recognised that there may be occasions when staff need to use their phones for essential purposes, such as first aid, fire evacuations etc. In such cases, phone use should be discreet, out of sight where possible, and kept to a minimum.



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