



# Monifieth High School Mobile Phone Policy



When young people keep phones and headphones away in class, a much more productive learning environment is created and everybody can achieve more.

The use of mobile phones is not permitted during lessons. We have adopted this approach for three main reasons:

- To focus on learning, by reducing distractions;
- To raise attainment, by improving concentration;
- To improve mental health, by making young people feel safer.

## Expectations and Consequences

We expect all young people to have their mobile phone on silent and safely stored in the phone box in each classroom.

If a young person does not meet our expectations about putting their phone in the box, and is found to be using their phone during a lesson, the following will happen:

### 1. Reminder

Pupils will be reminded by their teacher that phones should be on silent and in the phone box. They will be asked to do this immediately as part of the class routines to show they are ready to learn.

### 2. Warning

Should this prove to be unsuccessful, the teacher will issue a warning.

### 3. Final warning

The teacher will issue a final warning and log it on class charts.

### 4. PTC Support

Where possible in the first instance the teacher should seek support from their PTC who will take the mobile phone and return the pupil to their class, or remove the pupil for the remainder of the lesson should their unwillingness to comply continue.

### 5. ESLT/SLT

If the pupil does not co-operate with the PT, SLT or duty rota will become involved and parents will be contacted. The phone will be confiscated until the end of the day and a consequence issued. Persistent non-cooperation will lead to further action by SLT.

## Likely Questions

**Q: Can I still bring my phone to school?**

A: Yes, but it must be placed in the phone box at the start of every lesson.

**Q: What about during form time?**

A: We would not ask pupils to put phones in the boxes at this time, but phones should not be seen/ heard during this time.

**Q: What if there is an emergency and I need to contact home?**

A: You can speak to your teacher to get permission to go to PC&S or DHT so that you can use your phone, or a school phone.

**Q: My parent/carer is phoning/texting me - can I answer?**

A: No. Parents/carers have been informed that you cannot access your phone during lessons. You can contact them at break or lunch, or they can contact you via the school office in an emergency.

**Q: Can I still listen to music from my phone?**

A: No. You will have no access to your phone during lessons.

**Q: What if I need to message my friends?**

A: You do not need to contact your friends during lessons.

**Q: Why are there not different rules for senior pupils?**

A: Mobile phones are a distraction to everyone, and we have the same expectations for all pupils during lessons.

**Q: What about S6 pupils with a study period?**

A: S6 pupils may choose to use their phones during private study if not in a classroom/ the library.

**Q: What about when I have PE?**

A: The staff in PE will give clear instructions about where to store mobile phones during different activities.

**Q: What about if I'm going to the library?**

A: The library will follow the same rules as working classrooms and has its own box.

**Q: Am I allowed to wear my smart watch?**

A: Smart watches/ phones should be switched to airplane mode (rather than silent) to prevent distracting notifications.

**Q: Will I be allowed to use my phone for learning activities?**

A: Class teachers may direct pupils to use their phones for particular learning activities and will manage this within their lesson. BGE pupils should be encouraged to use chrome books whenever possible.

**Q: What if a teacher refuses to return my phone?**

A: Phones that are placed in the phone box at the start of the lesson will be returned by the teacher at the end of the lesson. If a situation has led to a phone being withheld, a pupil can report this to PC&S or the PTC.

**Q: Will it take a lot of time to put phones in the box?**

A: No. We will very quickly establish a routine for this so that it does not take time away from learning and teaching.

**Q: What happens if there is a fire alarm?**

A: During a fire alarm the policy is that everyone should evacuate immediately. Where possible, the teacher may bring the box with them.

**Q: Will teachers put their phones in the box?**

A: No. In the main teacher phones will be out of sight unless they are needed for safety or as part of the lesson.

**Q: What happens if someone takes my phone?**

A: Teachers will supervise pupils when they collect their phones. If this happens report it to the teacher asap who will keep the class in the room. If required a senior member of staff will attend.

**Q: Where will the teachers keep the boxes?**

A: Teachers will keep the boxes in a safe area within their classroom.

**Q: Is the school responsible if my phone gets broken or damaged or stolen?**

A: No. As with bags, clothing, footwear, jewellery, etc pupils bring items to school at their own risk. We do not encourage pupils to bring expensive items for this reason. This includes phones being placed in boxes.

**Q: What happens if someone refuses to put their phone in the box?**

A: This will be dealt with in the same way as any other failure to meet school expectations. Pupils will be issued with a reminder, followed by a warning, and a third infringement will be logged on class charts. If that is not successful, members of ESLT (PTs and SLT) will become involved.

**Q: What happens if someone just puts a spare phone in the box?**

A: If a pupil is seen with a phone during a lesson, they will be asked to put it in the box – even if they have already placed one in there. Persistent issues will be dealt with by PTs and SLT.

**Q: What if I have not brought my phone to school?**

A: Teachers will not search bags or coats to check if this is true. However, if you say you don't have a phone for the box, and then a phone appears, you will be asked to put it in the box and a flag will go home on class charts.

**Q: What happens if someone sets an alarm to go off on their phone in the box?**

A: This will be dealt with in the same way as any other disruption to learning and teaching.

**Q: What if I rely on my phone for a genuine (eg medical) reason?**

A: If you absolutely need your phone during lessons then PC&S will issue a pass and this can be logged on seemis. This will only be the case for a very small number of pupils.

**Q: What if I leave class before the end of the lesson?**

A: If you are leaving class for an approved reason then you will be permitted to remove your own phone. If you have been removed by Duty Rota/ Time Out then the Duty PT/ SLT member may remove your phone.