



YSGOL BRO GWAUN

MOBILE PHONES & SMART DEVICES POLICY

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Wedi Cytuno gan y Llywodraethwyr

Approved by Governors

Arwyddwyd/Signed:

Pennaeth/Headteacher: _____

Llywodraethwr/Governor: _____

MOBILE PHONES & SMART DEVICES POLICY

Rheoli Dogfennau / Document Control :

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1.0			

Mae copi cyflawn o'r polisi hwn ar gael o swyddfa'r ysgol ar gais, gyda dyddiad cymmeradwyaeth, dyddiad adolygu a llofnod bob rhanddeiliad oedd yn rhan o cymmeradwyaeth polisi.

A complete copy of this policy is available from the school office upon request, they include an approval date, a review date and signatures of all stakeholders involved in the approval of the policy.

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Introduction

Ysgol Bro Gwaun recognises the ubiquitous presence of mobile phones and devices presents significant challenges to how pupils behave and learn in school settings. Increasingly, there is mounting evidence suggesting that the unchecked use of mobile phones and smart devices in schools is having a detrimental impact on pupils' mental health and academic progress, while also draining the energy of school staff who must manage resulting problems. These detrimental impacts have been highlighted by organisations such as PISA, UNESCO, and Estyn.

Aims of the Policy

By limiting the use of mobile phones in school, the policy aims to help establish a calm, safe, and supportive learning environment conducive to teaching and keeping children safe. It complements the school's safeguarding, bullying and behaviour policies.

It is intended that the policy will contribute to:

- Reducing distractions in lessons
- Reducing staff time spent on mobile-related matters
- Improving academic performance
- Enhancing social interactions between students
- Tackling cyberbullying
- Promoting students' health and well-being
- Strengthening students' resilience
- Preventing security/safeguarding concerns related to video recordings
- Preventing cheating
- Supporting equality

This policy employs the general term "mobile phones" to encompass a range of smart devices that pupils might bring to school.

Although not an exhaustive list, devices covered by this policy include:

Mobile phones, Smartwatches, Tablets (e.g., iPads, Android tablets), Laptops with cellular connectivity, Portable gaming consoles with internet connectivity (e.g., Nintendo Switch, PlayStation Vita), Smart eyewear (e.g., Google Glass), Fitness trackers with messaging capabilities, Portable media players with internet access (e.g., iPod Touch), E-readers with internet connectivity (e.g., Kindle Fire), Portable GPS devices with internet connectivity.

Policy Outline

Ysgol Bro Gwaun's approach to the use of mobile phones and other smart devices has been determined following a consultation process involving governors, the headteacher and the school council. Parents/carers have been informed. The approach is based on a mutual understanding of the need to limit the use of mobile devices during school hours, whilst at the same time, recognising the practical challenges of collecting, placing in storage and returning devices during the day. The policy is based on the mutual trust and understanding that exists between staff and pupils at Ysgol Bro Gwaun.

At Ysgol Bro Gwaun, pupils may bring mobile phones to school but must keep them switched off and stored in their bags/lockers.

Other smart devices, such as ear-pods and smart watches should not be linked to mobile phones during the school day and must also be placed in bags/lockers.

The school is not responsible for any phones/devices that are brought to school by pupils.

Pupils must ensure that mobile devices are switched off and placed out of sight before arrival at school. Under no circumstances should other 'linked' devices be used during the school day.

Exceptions

In exceptional cases, and with prior approval from senior staff or year progress managers, approval will be given for individual pupils to use their mobile device to:

- Administer or monitor medical symptoms. Devices may be used for accessibility purposes in accordance with equality guidelines or for medical-related conditions. The usage of these devices will be limited to meeting the specific requirements of their condition
- Allow immediate access to home-based support (or equivalent), for safeguarding and/or wellbeing reasons.

Parents/carers should contact the school to discuss potential exceptions such as those described above.

Breaches & sanctions

The following tiered approach will be adopted for breaches of this policy:

1. Within each half-term, pupils found with mobile phones or digital devices will have them confiscated for the remainder of the day. The devices will be labelled with the pupil's name and kept in secure storage in the school office. Pupils can reclaim their devices at the end of the day. This will be recorded on classcharts by the person confiscating phone.
 - There will be NO additional sanction for a 1st offence.
 - A C4+ (after-school detention) will be issued for a 2nd offence and parents/carers contacted.

2. Pupils found with mobile phones on 3 or more occasions within a ½ term period will be required to hand in their phones at the school office every day for a period of one week following the third occurrence. The phones will be labelled with the pupil's name and kept in secure storage. Pupils may reclaim their phones at the end of each day for this period. This will be recorded on classcharts.
 - A C4+ (after-school detention) will be issued for the 3rd offence and parents/carers contacted.
3. Pupils using their devices for unacceptable single-use incidents such as inappropriate videoing, sexting, bullying or any other use deemed a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, will have their phones confiscated and will be required to hand in their phones at the school office every day for a period of one week following the incident. Pupils may reclaim their phones at the end of each day for this period.
 - Any additional sanction will be dependent on the nature of the incident.

In all cases described by points 2 and 3, parents/carers will be contacted and may be required to come into school for further discussions.

Refusal to hand over a phone to staff members will result in a follow-up sanction consistent with the school's behaviour policy.

Reviewing the Policy

The final details of this policy have been drawn up in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and members of the school community.

It will be discussed, reviewed and revised annually.

Reference Documents and Useful Links:

- *Pembrokeshire County Council Schools Mobile Phones Policy Guidance*
Add link when on website
- *Rights, respect, equality: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools, Welsh Government, 2019*
<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/rights-respect-equality-statutory-guidance-for-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools.pdf>
- *Wales Safeguarding Procedures*
http://www.myguideapps.com/projects/wales_safeguarding_procedures/default/
- *Safeguarding Children, Welsh Government*
<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=pupil%20referral%20units-,Safeguarding%20children,-Includes%20keeping%20learners>
- *School behaviour and discipline, Welsh Government*
<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=School%20behaviour%20and%20discipline>
- *School Bullying, Welsh Government*

<https://www.gov.wales/pupil-inclusion-wellbeing-behaviour-and-attendance#:~:text=with%20school%20exclusions.-,School%20bullying,-Includes%20guidance%20to>

- *Technology in Education: On Whose Terms?*, UNESCO, 2023
<https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/technology>
- *We Don't Tell Our Teachers*, Estyn, 2022
<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/document-page/21018/contents/document-details/main-findings>

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