

# MOBILE PHONE POLICY

## YSGOL EIFIONYDD: PUPILS



### Objectives

In line with the school's statutory duties and our responsibility to ensure order and high quality education, since 1 September 2021 pupils are not permitted to bring a mobile phone onto the school site (including the grounds and buildings), unless an exemption has been approved under specific circumstances.

This ban applies to all related devices, including wireless headphones such as AirPods and any device capable of recording or digital communication.

### Procedures

- 1.1 If a mobile phone is seen or heard on the school site, the pupil is expected to hand the device to a member of staff immediately. The device will be stored securely in the Main Office, with a formal record of the pupil's name and the date of the incident.
- 1.2 If a pupil fails to hand the phone to a member of staff, this will result in one lunchtime detention.
- 1.3 If the pupil continues to refuse to comply after the initial stage, this will result in an after school detention.
- 1.4 If the pupil does not comply with stage 1.3, that is, refuses to hand the phone to the Main Office and refuses all sanctions, this will result in an external exclusion of up to one day.
- 1.5 The device will be returned to the pupil from the Main Office at 3:20pm.
- 1.6 If a pupil continues to refuse to comply with the policy, action will be taken in accordance with the school's pastoral procedures: *Y Ffordd Ymlaen* (The Way Forward).
- 1.7 The school telephone in the Main Office may be used to contact home during break, lunchtime, at the end of the day, or immediately in an emergency.
- 1.8 The school accepts no responsibility for any phone lost or damaged on the school site.

### Exemptions

A pupil may only bring a mobile phone to school in the following circumstances:

#### 1. Travel Safety and Organisation

- Educational visits or off-site activities requiring a phone for safety or communication purposes, in accordance with staff instructions.
- Off-site education (e.g. Ysgol Glan y Môr, Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor) where a phone is necessary for safe travel.

#### 2. Specific Learning Use

- Where the nature of a lesson or task requires the use of a personal device, with prior permission from the teacher.

#### 3. Individual Exemptions for Wellbeing, Health or ALN

- Temporary permission from a Head of Year or member of the Senior Leadership Team, e.g. due to serious illness in the family.
- Permanent permission from the ALN Coordinator or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, e.g. for monitoring a medical condition or supporting organisation/memory.
- Individual exemption for safety, wellbeing or additional learning needs.

**Where an exemption applies, the phone must be switched off and kept securely out of sight at all times while the pupil is on the school site.**

## Misuse of Mobile Phones

**Legal Context** -Under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is a criminal offence to send an indecent, offensive or threatening message to any person, whether in written or electronic form. It is likewise unlawful to send such a message by phone. The penalty for this offence is up to 6 months' imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £5,000. If the message implies that violence will be used against the recipient, the penalty may be up to 5 years' imprisonment. If the message is racially aggravated, the penalty may be up to 7 years.

All incidents of cyberbullying will be referred to the Police. Pupils are not permitted to take photographs, create images or videos, or undertake any form of filming of other pupils or members of staff on any device, including mobile phones.