

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Children and Family Services
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	10/12/2024
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Mobile phones in secondary schools
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	shmilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk

### UPDATE:

At the November meeting of the Education and Children’s Services Committee, the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning committed to issuing a service update on how individual schools were responding to recently published national guidance on mobile phones in schools. The following data is accurate as of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

All secondary schools have either already consulted or are in the process of consulting with key stakeholders to help determine local arrangements in keeping with the national guidance.

*“pupils, school staff, parents and carers and the wider school community are fully consulted in relation to the agreed approach on the limitations of mobile phone use in schools.”*

As a result, schools are in different stages of reviewing their local guidance on the use of mobile phones. The information below provides an indication of decisions being reached by school communities.

Secondary schools were asked if they had updated their school guidance on mobile phone use.



They were then asked about the option that best describes the policy they have, or are planning to have, in their school following consultation.

Complete ban on phones in school	0																		
All phones collected on entry to classroom	0																		
Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom	8																		
Zones identified for acceptable phone use	3																		
Faculties identify their own guidance to support pedagogy	0																		
No restrictions on mobile phone use in school	0																		

Please identify your school	Could you select the option that best describes the policy you have (or are planning) in the school.
Aberdeen Grammar School	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Hazlehead Academy	Zones identified for acceptable phone use
Dyce Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Oldmachar Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Northfield Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Harlaw Academy	Zones identified for acceptable phone use
St. Machar Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Bucksburn Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Cults Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom
Bridge of Don Academy	Zones identified for acceptable phone use
Lochside Academy	Option for 'out of sight or in the box' in the classroom

Qualitative feedback from school leaders has highlighted:

- the need to engage with parents and carers to both secure their requirements in terms of communicating with their young person, and their support for any change.
- the need to engage with young people so that they fully understand the reasons for change if the change is to really make a difference.
- the need to take account of the level of restriction that can be supervised (for example over breaks and lunchtimes) to ensure success.