# YSGOL GYFUN GŴYR MOBILE PHONE POLICY 2026-27

At Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, we recognise the usefulness of mobile phones in specific situations. We realise the importance of parents being able to keep in touch with their children via mobile phone outside of school hours. However, both locally and nationally, there is growing evidence of mobile phone misuse, including online bullying, inappropriate use of images and other forms of harassment. We also realise that the fact that pupils spend so much of their time in front of a screen is a growing concern because of the negative impact on learning and wellbeing. Mobile phones can affect their education by distracting learners during the school day. Learners must be able to focus fully in their lessons and spend quality time socialising together in their free time. In light of this, and having consulted with our pupils, their parents, school staff and governors, we intend to implement some changes to the school's mobile phone policy.

## This means that learners in Years 7-11 are allowed to:

- Bring a mobile phone to school – but it MUST be turned off (power off) and kept out of sight during the school day (8:30am – 15:10pm). The only exception to this will be during break time and lunchtime in the canteen, to order and pick up their food using the food ordering app.

- If learners need to use their mobile device for an essential reason, they must first seek permission from a member of staff.

- If learners have ALN and need to use their phone to record homework, photograph work from the whiteboard etc., this should be done responsibly, ensuring it does not affect others.

- Pupils are allowed to use their phone respectfully when travelling to / from school i.e. no taking pictures / videos / social media posts about other pupils, no hateful messages / bullying online, no loudspeakers etc.

- Pupils are allowed to use their phone for educational purposes during lessons with staff permission e.g. using websites such as Kahoot, research purposes etc. Mobile phones MUST be turned off again following that lesson.

- Students in Years 12 and 13 are allowed to use their phones at the Sixth Form Study Centre but are asked not to use them around the school premises.

**Consequently, learners in Years 7 - 11 are NOT allowed to:**

- Use their mobile device without permission at any time during the school day (8:30am – 15:10pm), except to order / collect food in the canteen.

- Leave their device on (powered up) during the school day, as notifications can disrupt pupils' learning and have a negative impact on pupils' learning and wellbeing.

- Use headphones e.g. Airpods / loudspeakers (e.g. ones connected via Bluetooth) during the school day.

**Consequences:**

- **During lessons,** if a learner does not follow the above conditions, the learner will be asked to place their phone in a box on the teacher's desk. The learner will get their phone back at the end of the lesson. This will be recorded on SIMS.

- If a learner does not follow the above conditions **outside of lessons**, their phone will be confiscated and taken to the school office to be picked up by the learner at the end of the day. This will be recorded on SIMS.

- If a learner refuses to comply, the staff member will contact the office and a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be called. The consequence of having to call for a member of the SLT will be the mobile phone being transferred to the safe until the end of the school day. The learner will be taken to the Behavioural Unit. This will be recorded on SIMS.

- If the learner refuses to go to the Behavioural Unit, parents will be contacted.

- If a learner receives 3 SIMS records for their use of their mobile phone, this will have further consequences e.g. the phone being placed in the office until the end of the day, parents/carers having to collect the device, losing the privilege of bringing a phone to school altogether for a certain period of time.

- More serious misuse of a phone during the school day (e.g. taking pictures or videos, online bullying or hateful messages etc.) will have more serious consequences, in accordance with the school's code of conduct.

## General Questions:

### I need to contact my child during the school day. How can I do that?

We understand that at times a parent may want to contact their child during the school day. In such a situation, we ask parents to follow our current policy of calling the school office (01792 872 403) and a message will be delivered to your child immediately. This can include a message for them to turn on their mobile phone to receive a message / call.

### My child needs to contact me (parent) during the school day. How can they do that?

- Any learner who needs to contact home should seek permission from a member of staff before doing so. Learners can also use the phone in Main Reception to contact parents/carers if necessary. We have each parent/carer's phone number on our system should the child need it.

## My child uses an app to order food in the canteen. How will they manage this now?

Learners are given permission to use their phones during break / lunch as they show their food order number to canteen staff. Once this is done, the phone must be put away in their bag.

## What if a learner uses their phone to check their timetable or to note / check homework?

- All learners receive a paper copy of their timetable at the beginning of the year. It should be glued into the note book provided to every pupil by the school. If another copy is needed, it can be obtained at the school office. All staff also have access to each learner's timetables and can assist if needed.

- Learners should check / organise their homework before coming to school (ideally the night before). Learners are not required to check / view homework during the school day.

## What about ALN learners who use their phone to take pictures of notes from the whiteboard or to monitor any medical conditions. Are they allowed to use their phones?

ALN learners will be allowed to use their phones for educational or medical purposes (e.g. for apps that monitor diabetes). However, this usage is monitored to ensure that they do not take advantage of the situation e.g. playing games or using social media while pretending to use their phones for educational or medical reasons. Diabetes monitoring apps can work from a distance of several metres and so the phone can be kept either out of sight in the bag (with the sound on loud enough to be heard) or on the teacher's desk in the front of the class.

## What is the situation with having a mobile phone in an exam?

Mobile phones are banned from ALL exams. A learner MUST leave their phone in their bag before entering the exam room, or give their phone to inspectors BEFORE sitting at their desk in the exam. Any student caught with a mobile phone in their possession during an examination will have that paper disqualified. Such an incident can result in all other exam papers being disqualified as well.

Some learners need to be able to see their mobile phone during their exams, to manage diabetes (or any other chronic health condition). Mobile phones are usually not permitted in an exam room, but a request can be made to the Examination Board to seek permission for the use of a phone for medical purposes. This is done by applying for Access Arrangements Online.

If the Examination Board grants permission, the learner will be asked to put their mobile phone in a place where it will be effectively monitored by the supervisor. This can be on a spare, empty desk within sight of the learner or on the supervisor's desk. Taking a mobile phone into the exam room for a specific medical condition is only allowed if this arrangement has been made and permission granted in advance.

**My child is not going to cope without his/her device being turned on.**

- Phone addiction is a growing concern for many of us. There will be times when young people and adults have to go without their mobile phone for various reasons e.g. mobile phones are not allowed in any exam room. We feel it is better to educate and support learners and young people now, before it becomes a more serious problem.

Parental support with this is vitally important and greatly appreciated. There are many studies into the negative effects of screen time on young people's mental health, wellbeing and brain development and we feel it is our duty to take these important steps to try to support the wellbeing and learning of all pupils.

(Reviewed: July 2026)