Mobile Phones in Shetland Schools – Teacher/Instructor Survey

Contents

Executive Summary

Mobile Phone Usage in Schools

Primary vs. Secondary: There is a strong consensus that mobile phone policies should differ between primary and secondary schools. Primary pupils generally should not have phones, while secondary pupils might need them for specific purposes.

Communication with Parents: Many respondents believe that communication between parents and pupils should go through the school office rather than directly via mobile phones during school hours to avoid disruptions and ensure safety.

Educational Use: Some teachers find mobile phones useful for educational purposes, such as accessing online resources, conducting quizzes, or using educational apps. However, there is concern about the lack of sufficient IT resources in schools, which places greater reliance on mobile phones.

Disruptions and Distractions

Classroom Disruptions: Mobile phones are seen as a source of distraction in classrooms. Teachers report frequent disruptions due to pupils using phones during lessons.

Social Skills and Interaction: There is concern that mobile phone use during breaks and lunchtimes reduces face-to-face social interactions among pupils, impacting their social skills development.

Policy Enforcement and Challenges:

Enforcement: Teachers rarely needed support from colleagues to deal with mobile phone related distractions, however, a few pupils have resisted handing over phones. There are inconsistencies in policy implementation across schools.

Parental Support: Effective enforcement of mobile phone policies requires support from parents. Some respondents suggest that parents need to be more involved in ensuring their children follow school rules regarding phone use.

Health and Safety Concerns:

Mental Health: There are concerns about the negative impact of mobile phone use on pupils' mental health, including issues related to cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate content.

Physical Safety: The potential for unauthorized photography and video recording raises privacy and safety concerns. Some teachers suggest banning phones altogether to mitigate these risks.

Recommendations arising from Teacher/Instructor responses

Differentiated policies: Implement different mobile phone policies for primary and secondary schools, considering the specific needs and maturity levels of pupils.

Enhanced IT Resources: Invest in more IT resources, such as laptops and tablets, to reduce reliance on mobile phones for educational purposes.

Clear Communication Channels: Ensure that all communication between parents and pupils during school hours goes through the school office.

Consistent Enforcement: Develop clear, consistent policies for mobile phone use and ensure they are enforced uniformly across all schools.

Parental Involvement: Engage parents in discussions about mobile phone policies and seek their support in enforcing rules.

Health and Safety Measures: Address mental health and safety concerns by limiting mobile phone use and educating pupils about responsible phone use.

Demographics

1. I work in...

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Primary	38.05%	43
2	Secondary	49.56%	56
3	Both	12.39%	14
		answered	113
		skipped	1

2. My base school is...

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Anderson High School	33.33%	38
2	Brae High School	12.28%	14
3	Aith Junior High School	8.77%	10
4	Baltasound Junior High School	3.51%	4
5	Mid Yell Junior High School	7.02%	8
6	Sandwick Junior High School	0.00%	0
7	Whalsay School	1.75%	2
8	Bell's Brae Primary School	7.89%	9
9	Burravoe Primary School	0.00%	0
10	Cullivoe Primary School	0.00%	0
11	Cunningsburgh Primary School	2.63%	3

2. My base school is...

				%	Count
12	Dunrossness Primary School			3.51%	4
13	Fair Isle Primary School			0.00%	0
14	Foula Primary School			0.00%	0
15	Hamnavoe Primary School			0.00%	0
16	Happyhansel Primary School			0.88%	1
17	Lunnasting Primary School			0.00%	0
18	Mossbank Primary School			0.00%	0
19	Nesting Primary School			0.00%	0
20	North Roe Primary School			0.00%	0
21	Ollaberry Primary School			0.00%	0
22	Sandness Primary School			1.75%	2
23	Scalloway Primary School			4.39%	5
24	Sound Primary School			7.89%	9
25	Tingwall Primary School			0.00%	0
26	Urafirth Primary School			0.88%	1
27	Whiteness Primary School			2.63%	3
28	Other (please specify):			0.88%	1
				answered	114
				skipped	0

2. My base school is...	6

Other (please specify): (1)

1	26/03/2025 8:17 PM ID: 267884318	Hayfield House

24. Thinking about your main role, what title best describes you?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Primary class teacher		21.93%	25
2	Support for Learning or ASN Teacher		12.28%	14
3	Principal teacher - Primary		3.51%	4
4	Secondary subject/s teacher		37.72%	43
5	Instructor		1.75%	2
6	Principal teacher - Secondary		13.16%	15
7	Supply teacher		0.00%	0
8	Probationer teacher		0.88%	1
9	Depute Headteacher		3.51%	4
10	Teaching Headteacher		2.63%	3
11	Headteacher		2.63%	3
			answered	114
			skipped	0

Views on Current Guidance

4. 2007 Guidance statement 1

3. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully		47.37%	54
2	Somewhat		44.74%	51
3	Not at all		7.89%	9
			answered	114
			skipped	0

4. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	All		51.33%	58
2	Some		37.17%	42
3	None		11.50%	13
			answered	113
			skipped	1

5. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	46
Individual comments are not published.		

5. 2007 Guidance statement 2

6. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully		36.84%	42
2	Somewhat		43.86%	50
3	Not at all		19.30%	22
			answered	114
			skipped	0

7. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

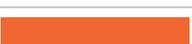| Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	All		58.93%	66
2	Some		34.82%	39
3	None		6.25%	7
			answered	112
			skipped	2

8. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	43
Individual comments are not published.		

6. 2007 Guidance statement 3

9. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully		60.18%	68
2	Somewhat		14.16%	16
3	Not at all		25.66%	29
			answered	113
			skipped	1

10. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	All		40.71%	46
2	Some		28.32%	32
3	None		30.97%	35
			answered	113
			skipped	1

11. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	52
Individual comments are not published.		
	answered	52
	skipped	62

7. 2007 Guidance statement 4

12. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully	50.00%	57
2	Somewhat	35.09%	40
3	Not at all	14.91%	17
		answered	114
		skipped	0

13. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	All	82.46%	94
2	Some	12.28%	14
3	None	5.26%	6
		answered	114
		skipped	0

14. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	28
Individual comments are not published.		
	answered	28
	skipped	86

8. 2007 Guidance statement 5

15. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully		87.16%	95
2	Somewhat		6.42%	7
3	Not at all		6.42%	7
			answered	109
			skipped	5

16. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	All		95.50%	106
2	Some		2.70%	3
3	None		1.80%	2
			answered	111
			skipped	3

17. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	12
	Individual comments are not published.		
		answered	12
		skipped	102

9. 2007 Guidance statement 6

18. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully	92.86%	104
2	Somewhat	6.25%	7
3	Not at all	0.89%	1
		answered	112
		skipped	2

19. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	All	95.50%	106
2	Some	2.70%	3
3	None	1.80%	2
		answered	111
		skipped	3

20. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	8
Individual comments are not published.		
	answered	8
	skipped	106

10. 2007 Guidance statement 7

21. To what extent is this guidance implemented in your setting?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Fully		44.74%	51
2	Somewhat		37.72%	43
3	Not at all		17.54%	20
			answered	114
			skipped	0

22. To what extent should this guidance be retained?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	All		81.58%	93
2	Some		14.91%	17
3	None		3.51%	4
			answered	114
			skipped	0

23. If you answered 'some' to the previous question, please, in a few words, highlight the aspect of the statement you feel should be considered in the revised guidance:

	Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	34
	Individual comments are not published.		
		answered	34
		skipped	80

Teacher Feedback on the prevalence of alleged issues

25. Have you had a teaching commitment in the past 20 days (4 weeks)

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		91.23%	104
2	No		8.77%	10
			answered	114
			skipped	0

12. Section 2 - Class Teachers - Extent of the issue

26. In the past 4 weeks (or 20 working days) how often

Answer Choices	not once	1-2 times	3-5 times	5-10 times	10-20 times	Response Total
has a mobile phone disrupted your teaching input	48.08% 50	10.58% 11	11.54% 12	13.46% 14	16.35% 17	104
have you had to request support from another member of staff to deal with a mobile phone related incident	87.50% 91	8.65% 9	2.88% 3	0.96% 1	0.00% 0	104
have you had to confiscate a phone	68.27% 71	19.23% 20	7.69% 8	3.85% 4	0.96% 1	104
has a pupil refused to put their mobile phone away when asked to do so	69.90% 72	18.45% 19	3.88% 4	4.85% 5	2.91% 3	103
have you planned for pupil mobile phones to be used as part of your lesson eg. to access online material / carry out research etc	56.31% 58	20.39% 21	12.62% 13	6.80% 7	3.88% 4	103
have pupils been	40.78%	11.65%	14.56%	11.65%	21.36%	103

26. In the past 4 weeks (or 20 working days) how often						
distracted by their mobile phones	42	12	15	12	22	
have you been photographed or videoed without your consent	89.22% 91	8.82% 9	1.96% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	102
have you found a pupil using a mobile phone to cheat during an assessment or exam	95.15% 98	3.88% 4	0.00% 0	0.97% 1	0.00% 0	103
have you instructed pupils to access learning eg. homework / classroom tasks using their mobile phones	67.31% 70	15.38% 16	7.69% 8	7.69% 8	1.92% 2	104
					answered	104
					skipped	10

Comment: (45)

Individual comments are not published.

In school or out of school – where does the harm lie?

27. With regards to the following risks, where is the greatest harm caused?					
Answer Choices	**In School**	**Outside of School**	**Don't know**	**Prefer not to say**	**Response Total**
addictive behaviour from apps	12.28% 14	65.79% 75	20.18% 23	1.75% 2	114
distraction from learning	61.40% 70	21.93% 25	14.04% 16	2.63% 3	114
cyberbullying	13.16% 15	63.16% 72	21.93% 25	1.75% 2	114
negative impact on mental health	14.04% 16	65.79% 75	18.42% 21	1.75% 2	114
access to inappropriate content such as pornography	5.26% 6	65.79% 75	27.19% 31	1.75% 2	114
grooming	1.75% 2	62.28% 71	34.21% 39	1.75% 2	114
children's privacy eg children taking photos and videos of each other without consent	43.86% 50	28.07% 32	26.32% 30	1.75% 2	114
children 'engaging in the real world'	15.79% 18	45.61% 52	35.96% 41	2.63% 3	114
				answered	114
				skipped	0
Comment: (32)					
Individual comments are not published.					

Level of agreement with the recent petition

28. A recent parent petition in a secondary school requested the school take action in 4 ways. To what extent do you agree with these requests?						
Answer Choices	**Strongly disagree**	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**	**Response Total**
Banning mobile phones during the school day on school premises, including during lunch and break time	10.53% 12	24.56% 28	11.40% 13	22.81% 26	30.70% 35	114
Implement strict, age-appropriate Wi-Fi filters for educational content only	6.14% 7	1.75% 2	4.39% 5	29.82% 34	57.89% 66	114
Stop teachers using smartphones as part of their lessons for younger pupils	7.02% 8	18.42% 21	21.05% 24	14.04% 16	39.47% 45	114
Encourage parents to delay giving smartphones to their children	0.88% 1	3.54% 4	10.62% 12	28.32% 32	56.64% 64	113
					answered	114
					skipped	0

Level of agreement on future guidance proposals

29. To what extent do you agree with the following guidance options:						
Answer Choices	**Strongly disagree**	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**	**Response Total**
No restrictions on mobile phone use	76.11% 86	20.35% 23	0.88% 1	1.77% 2	0.88% 1	113
Restrictions during class time - device must be out of sight (in bag/pocket/tray)	3.51% 4	4.39% 5	3.51% 4	34.21% 39	54.39% 62	114
Restrictions during class time - device must be handed in to the teacher at the start of the class	9.73% 11	18.58% 21	20.35% 23	17.70% 20	33.63% 38	113
Restrictions during class time - device must be switched off	2.65% 3	2.65% 3	8.85% 10	29.20% 33	56.64% 64	113
Restrictions across the school day - device must not be used during any part of the school day including break/lunch	13.16% 15	23.68% 27	23.68% 27	14.91% 17	24.56% 28	114
Teachers to determine if and when mobile phones can be used but consequences for failure to comply set at school level	8.85% 10	14.16% 16	13.27% 15	31.86% 36	31.86% 36	113
Whole school ban - phones are not expected to be brought to school	20.35% 23	23.01% 26	18.58% 21	16.81% 19	21.24% 24	113
Whole school ban - phones are not expected to be brought to school but exemptions for	28.32% 32	29.20% 33	15.93% 18	11.50% 13	15.04% 17	113

29. To what extent do you agree with the following guidance options:						
some pupils are in place						
Fewer restrictions as pupils get older eg ban in primary schools, high levels of restrictions in S1-3, fewer restrictions in S4-6	17.54% 20	17.54% 20	18.42% 21	38.60% 44	7.89% 9	114
More restrictions as pupils get older eg no restrictions in primary schools, more restrictions in S1-3 and most restrictions in S4-6	44.74% 51	29.82% 34	14.91% 17	7.89% 9	2.63% 3	114
					answered	114
					skipped	0