

PE2106/C: Prohibit mobile phone use in Scottish schools

COSLA written submission of 8 October 2024

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2024 seeking COSLA's view on Petition PE2106:

“Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to update guidance on mobile phones in schools to require all schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day, including at interval and lunchtime.”

COSLA and Scottish Government co-chair the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS). This group developed guidance on the use of mobile phones which was published in August 2024: [Guidance on Mobile Phones in Scotland's Schools](#).

The vision contained within the guidance is:

‘To enable all schools and local authorities to develop an ethos of citizenship that leads to respectful and responsible use of mobile technology. This will encourage schools to positively embrace mobile technology to enhance learning now and, in the future, whilst helping them protect staff, children and young people from the possible disruptive and harmful consequences of misuse.’

It is important to equip students with knowledge and skills in the respectful use of mobile technology, and the use of mobile technology can enhance learning and equip students with skills for their future lives and careers where the use of mobile technology and communications will be important. COSLA supports actions to remove the disruptive and unstructured use of mobile phones but does not support a blanket prohibition on the use of mobile phones in schools. The Guidance allows Head Teachers to make decisions they deem appropriate for their school.

Your letter also asks for any information COSLA has on the impact of the Guidance. Given it was only recently published we do not have such information.

We hope this contribution is helpful in your consideration of Petition PE2106.