HEADTEACHERS should have the power to ban mobile phones in schools, a Tory MSP has said.

South Scotland MSP Michelle Ballantyne has urged the Scottish Government to overhaul its 2013 guidance on school use of mobile devices.

She wants a ban on phones in primary schools and the introduction of restrictions on their use in secondary schools if headteachers deem it necessary.

Mrs Ballantyne highlighted research by academics at the London School of Economics into the impact of banning mobile phones in schools.

The authors concluded schools that restrict access to mobile phones ‘subsequently experience an improvement in test scores’ and it ‘improves outcomes for the low-achieving students the most’.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: ‘Headteachers can already ban phones in school if they wish to, however phones are now being used effectively in classrooms to aid learning.’