

Name and Title of Author:	Kate Durham
Name of Responsible Committee/Individual:	Local Governing Board
Implementation Date:	AUT 2026
Review Date:	AUT 2029
Target Audience:	Parents, carers and staff
Related Documents: All Trust policies and procedures referred to are located on the trust website, www.theeducationalliance.org.uk. If English is not your first language, and you require assistance/translation, please contact the HR Department. This policy has been equality impact assessed.	• Equality policy • Online/e-safety policy • Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy 

Introduction

This policy outlines the approach to mobile phone use at the school in line with the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, 2026. The school aims to maintain a safe, respectful and focused learning environment.

Policy Overview

Mobile phones are a valuable part of modern life and can be helpful for communication, safety, and learning beyond school. However, we also recognise growing concerns about their impact on children's wellbeing, relationships, and learning. Our aim is not to dismiss the benefits of technology, but to protect pupils from unnecessary distraction or risk and to promote positive habits around mobile phone use. By restricting phone use during the school day, we support pupils to focus on their learning, socialise with friends, and develop independence in a safe and nurturing environment.

Mobile phones can pose risks including distraction, safeguarding concerns, bullying, disruption of learning, and exposure to online harms. The school promotes a phone-free learning environment that supports wellbeing, safety and academic engagement.

Pupils may bring mobile phones to school but must hand them in at the start of the school day. Phones are stored securely and returned at the end of the day.

Smart Devices and Connected Technology

The school's mobile phone expectations also apply to smart devices that can connect to a mobile phone or the internet, including smartwatches such as Apple Watches, where these devices have functions that allow communication, messaging, calling, internet access, photography, recording or access to notifications. Pupils should not have access to these functions during the school day. Where a pupil brings a connected smartwatch or similar device to school, it should be treated in the same way as a mobile phone and handed in to the appropriate member of staff at the start of the school day for secure storage. It will be returned at the end of the school day. Simply putting a smartwatch into a particular mode, such as airplane mode, school mode or do-not-disturb mode, does not normally meet the school's expectation if the device remains in the pupil's possession and could subsequently be used to communicate or access information. The school recognises that some smartwatches and wearable devices may have specific medical, accessibility or safeguarding functions. Where a pupil has an identified need for such a device, an individual arrangement may be agreed by the Headteacher. Any agreed exception will be formally approved and documented. Ordinary watches that do not have communication, internet or smart-device functions are not affected by this policy.

Education on Mobile and Online Safety

The school provides pupils with education on mobile phone safety, online behaviour, cyberbullying and digital citizenship as part of the curriculum. Pupils are taught why restrictions on mobile phone use are important.

Medical and Safeguarding Exceptions

Pupils with medical conditions, disabilities or specific safeguarding needs may be permitted to retain access to their phones where appropriate. Such exceptions must be formally approved by the Headteacher and documented.

Staff and Visitors Mobile Phone Use

Staff/visitors must not use personal mobile phones in front of pupils for personal purposes. Phones should only be used in staff-only areas or for emergency/safeguarding purposes.

Trips and Residential Visits

As with the normal school day, Mobile phones should not be brought on school trips and should be handed in to the class teacher before the trip/residential so they can be left at school.

Storage, Retrieval and Security

Phones handed in by pupils will be stored securely by staff. The school is not liable for loss or damage except in cases of negligence.

Breaches of Policy

Pupils who fail to hand in their phone or misuse a device may have it confiscated. Repeated breaches may result in further sanctions according to our behaviour policy.

Communication with Parents

Parents will be informed of the policy and may contact the school office (01904 551075) during the day if they need to reach their child. Pupils should not communicate directly with parents during the school day using mobile phones.