



Mobile Phone Policy

We Care • We Challenge • We Commit

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Mobile Phone Policy – Mission

At Fulwood Academy, we are committed to creating a calm, safe and focused learning environment where every pupil can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Our approach to mobile phone use reflects our dedication to high expectations, positive behaviour and the wellbeing of our whole school community. Rooted in our core values — **We Care, We Challenge, We Commit** — this policy supports pupils in developing healthy habits, strong self-regulation and respectful use of technology.

We Care

We prioritise the wellbeing, safety and inclusion of every pupil. By limiting mobile phone use during the school day, we reduce distractions, online risks and conflict, creating a supportive environment where pupils can build positive relationships, engage fully in learning and feel secure. We also recognise that some pupils may require devices for medical or educational purposes and ensure these needs are met with compassion and clear support.

We Challenge

We challenge pupils to focus, engage and take responsibility for their learning without reliance on mobile devices. By setting clear boundaries, we encourage resilience, independence and strong learning habits, helping pupils to develop concentration, communication skills and respect for the learning environment.

We Commit

We are committed to high standards, consistency and fairness in the application of this policy. Through clear expectations and consistent routines, we reinforce a culture where learning comes first, behaviour is positive, and pupils are supported to make responsible choices with technology both in school and beyond.

Our mobile phone policy is designed to protect learning time, promote wellbeing and maintain a respectful school culture. While pupils are permitted to bring phones to school, clear boundaries ensure devices do not interfere with education, relationships or safety. Where exceptions are necessary for curriculum or medical reasons, these are carefully managed to ensure fairness and clarity for all.

Together, by caring for one another, challenging ourselves to stay focused, and committing to high expectations, we create an environment where every pupil can succeed.

1. Rationale

- At Fulwood Academy, we are committed to creating a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment where pupils can thrive academically and socially.

Mobile phones, when visible or in use during the school day, can:

- Disrupt learning and concentration
- Increase incidents of conflict, bullying and online harm
- Undermine positive behaviour routines and relationships

In line with our Behaviour Policy and current Department for Education guidance, the Academy operates a clear and consistent approach to mobile phone use to protect learning time, wellbeing, and pupil safety.

2. Bringing Mobile Phones to School

Pupils are permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

However, **All mobile phones must be:**

- Turned off
- Kept in the pupil's bag
- Not seen, used, or heard at any point during the school day

3. If a Mobile Phone Is Seen or Used

If a mobile phone is seen, heard, or used anywhere on the school site:

- The pupil will be referred immediately to the **IMPACT Centre**
- The phone will be confiscated
- The phone will be returned to the pupil at **4:00 p.m. the same day**
- This is treated as a serious disruption to learning in line with the Behaviour Policy.

4. Times and Locations This Applies

This rule applies at **all times**, including:

- Before school
- During lessons
- Break and lunchtime

- After school
- During extracurricular clubs, interventions, trips, and activities
- There are **no social-time exceptions**.

5. Staff Use of Mobile Devices

Staff may use personal or school devices where necessary for professional purposes, including:

- Accessing school-based platforms
- Email communication
- Behaviour and safeguarding systems
- Teaching and learning where appropriate

All staff use must remain professional and in line with safeguarding expectations.

6. Curriculum-Based Exceptions

In limited circumstances, mobile phones may be used as part of learning activities, for example:

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Photography
- Other explicit curriculum tasks where a device supports learning outcomes

In these cases:

- Use will be clearly directed by the teacher
- The purpose and duration will be made explicit to pupils
- Phones must be returned to bags and switched off immediately after use
- Unauthorised use outside these instructions will result in IMPACT referral.

7. Medical Exceptions

Some pupils may require access to mobile devices for medical monitoring purposes, for example:

- Blood sugar tracking for diabetes

Where a mobile phone is required for medical reasons:

- This will be managed through the **school office or pastoral team**

- Clear arrangements will be agreed with parents/carers and healthcare plans
- Use will be supervised and solely for medical purposes

8. Consistency and Fairness

This policy is applied:

- Consistently
- Calmly
- Fairly

The aim is not punishment, but to:

- Protect learning
- Promote positive behaviour
- Keep pupils safe
- Maintain a respectful school culture