

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

SCOPE:	Academy Policy
AUTHOR/ORIGINATOR:	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
STATUTORY BASIS:	Non statutory
REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH ON WEBSITE:	Yes
DATE RATIFIED:	September 2026
DATE DISTRIBUTED TO STAFF:	September 2027



Working together to be exceptional in all that we do so that we may have and live it to the full (John 10:10)

School Ethos and Vision

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 5 core values of:

- Act Wisely
- Build Community
- Embrace Opportunities and experiences
- Help others
- Show kindness

These core values underpin our policies, procedures, and the way we treat one another in our community. As a community we are working together to be exceptional in all that we do, so that we may "have life and live it to the full". (John 10:10)

1. Policy Statement

1.1 Commitment

The Academy is committed to providing a safe, calm and purposeful learning environment in which all pupils can achieve their academic potential and develop socially and emotionally.

1.2 Government Guidance

This policy has been developed in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in schools.

The DfE states that schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar smart technology throughout the school day in order to support learning, wellbeing, behaviour and positive social interaction.

1.3 Academy Position

In light of the DfE Policy, All Saints School has decided that it will adapt the approach that Mobile Phones and Smart Devices may only be permitted on site if turned off during the school day at the bottom of a students bag. In January 2027 this will change to being within a pouch or locker.

1.3.1

This applies:

Before the start of the school day;

b. During lesson time;

c. During social times, including break and lunchtime;

d. After school;

e. During educational visits; and

f. During any Academy-organised activity or event.

2. Purpose

2.1

The Academy considers that this policy supports:

2.1.1 Learning

- a. Improved concentration and engagement in lessons;
- b. Reduced distraction from learning activities; and
- c. Improved academic outcomes.

2.1.2 Wellbeing

- a. Positive mental health and emotional wellbeing;
- b. Reduced exposure to online conflict and cyberbullying; and
- c. Reduced anxiety associated with social media use.

2.1.3 Relationships and Behaviour

- a. Increased face-to-face communication;
- b. Positive social relationships; and
- c. A calm, safe and purposeful school culture.

3. Definitions

3.1 Smart devices

For the purposes of this policy, a smart device is any device capable of one or more of the following functions, including smartphone, watch, glasses, tablets :

- a. Internet access;
- b. Social media access;
- c. Downloading or operating applications;
- d. Photography or video recording;
- e. Online or app-based gaming;
- f. Email access;
- g. Audio or video streaming; or
- h. Mobile communication functions through a connected smartwatch or similar device.

4. Non-Smartphone Mobile Phones

4.1 The Academy recognises that some families may wish pupils to carry a basic mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school.

4.2 Where a pupil carries a non-smartphone mobile telephone ("brick phone"), the following conditions apply:

- a. The device must be switched off before entering the Academy site;
- b. The device must remain switched off throughout the school day; is placed in their bag, and from January 2027 a pouch or locker.
- c. The device must be stored securely at the bottom of the pupil's bag; and
- d. The device must not be visible or used anywhere on the Academy site.

4.3 These requirements apply immediately upon a pupil entering Academy premises.

5. Searching

5.1 The school will only undertake searches of students bags where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item, including Smart Device / Mobile phone, Academy staff may conduct searches in accordance with:

- The Education Act 1996;
- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance; and
- The Academy Behaviour Policy.

5.2 Where agreed as part of an individual behaviour intervention plan, a pupil may be subject to additional screening or searches upon arrival at school.

6. Sanctions

6.1 Where a pupil fails to comply with Section 5 of this policy:

- a. The incident will be recorded on Arbor;
- b. The pupil will receive a one-hour same-day detention, concluding at 4.00pm;
- c. The device will be confiscated and stored securely; and
- d. The student may collect the device at 4pm after their detention.

6.2 Second occasion

- a. The incident will be recorded on Arbor;
- b. The pupil will receive a one-hour same-day detention, concluding at 4.00pm;
- c. The device will be confiscated and stored securely; and
- d. A parent/carer may collect the phone from the Main Office after **3.00pm, seven days after the date of confiscation.**

7.4 Persistent Breaches (more than 3 occasions)

7.4.1 Where a pupil repeatedly breaches this policy, the Academy may require a meeting with parents/carers.

7.4.2 The Academy may implement a **Mobile Phone / Smart Device - Free Contract** for a period of six school weeks.

7.4.3 The contract may include:

- a. Daily screening or searching on arrival at school;
- b. Additional monitoring procedures;
- c. Parental review meetings; and
- d. Further behaviour interventions as deemed appropriate by the Academy.

7.4.4 Should a Mobile Phone / Smart Device be discovered during the six-week contract period, the Academy will consider this a significant breach of the Mobile Phone and Smart Device and Behaviour and this will result in further consequences in line with the Behaviour Policy. The school reserves the right to retain the device until the end of the relevant half term.

8. Storage and Security of Confiscated Devices

8.1 Any confiscated device will:

- a. Be recorded on Arbor;
- b. Be placed in secure storage; and
- c. Remain inaccessible to the pupil for the duration of the confiscation period.

8.2 The Academy will take all reasonable steps to safeguard confiscated property.

8.3 In accordance with DfE guidance, smartphones may be treated as prohibited items and retained for a reasonable period where this is considered necessary and proportionate.

8.4 The Academy accepts no liability for the loss, theft or damage of any mobile phone, smartphone, smartwatch or electronic device brought onto Academy premises, whether in a pupil's possession or confiscated by the Academy.

9. Exceptions

9.1 The Principal may authorise an exemption to this policy in exceptional circumstances.

Examples may include:

- a. A medical requirement;
- b. A safeguarding requirement identified within a formal safeguarding plan; or
- c. Another exceptional circumstance where the Principal considers an exemption necessary and proportionate.

Any exemption must be approved in writing and may be subject to conditions.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

Mobile Phones in Schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

Behaviour in Schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-in-schools--2>

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Searching, Screening and Confiscation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/21/contents>

Equality Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

The Academy will make reasonable adjustments where required under the Equality Act 2010 and will ensure that the implementation of this policy is proportionate, fair and non-discriminatory.

The Academy considers that this policy supports safeguarding, promotes pupil wellbeing, protects learning time and reflects the Government's expectation that schools should operate as mobile phone-free environments.

Monitoring and Review

The Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead shall be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed annually, or sooner where required by changes in legislation, statutory guidance or Academy circumstances.

Appendix A

Smartphone Free Childhood – Smartphone Alternatives for Children

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

5.3 This resource includes information regarding:

- a. Basic mobile telephones;
- b. GPS tracking devices;
- c. Call-and-text-only devices; and
- d. Appropriate SIM packages.

Next Review Date: September 2027.