



Saint Aidan's Church of England High School

Mobile Devices Policy – Students

Author:	Mr Anthony Lord
Reviewed by:	Mr Anthony Lord
Review date:	May 2026
Next review date:	May 2028
Adopted by Governors Policy Review Group:	19th May 2026
Adopted by Full Governors:	30th June 2026

Mobile Devices Policy

Rationale

Mobile communication devices are now a feature of modern society and most of our student's own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many of these devices
- The integration of cameras into them leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the device e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode
- The potential to use AI in place of students own work

It is not realistic to prohibit all of these devices being brought into school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect them in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow students to have devices with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

Policy

- i. Devices can be brought to school but must not be used for any purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, using the internet, taking photos, checking the time, taking videos) after 8.30am or before 3.00pm.
- ii. Smart watches are allowed as a time telling device but must not be used during the school day as a means of communicating. No watches of any kind may be worn in or taken into examinations.
- iii. Those students who use their phone as a tool for monitoring diabetes levels may keep their mobile phone switched on and, on their person, with the guidance of medical professionals.
- iv. Devices must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view in the student's bag. They should not be in a pocket or about their person.
- v. If a student breaches these rules the device will be confiscated and passed into reception. Devices will be returned at 3.00pm each day. The first offence will trigger no further sanction. A second offence within a term will bring about a lunchtime in IEU; a third offence will trigger a full day in IEU. A clean slate will apply at the start of each term.
- vi. All incidents of phone confiscation will be logged in Synergy.
- vii. Devices must not be taken into examinations.
- viii. In the case of an emergency where parents need to contact children urgently, they should contact the school office, and a message will be relayed promptly.

Confiscation of mobile phones at Saint Aidan's is rare and we firmly believe that phones should not be in use by our students during the school day due to the distraction that they provide, and as a mechanism for safeguarding our school community.

Safeguarding

Staff are permitted to confiscate phones from students under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Using a mobile device to engage in certain types of conduct can be classified as criminal conduct. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- bullying
- harassment
- sending indecent images of yourself or others
- threats of violence or assault
- abusive calls, texts, emails or social media posts directed towards another individual on the basis of their ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies where appropriate.

There may be times when staff are concerned regarding the content on a student's mobile phone. Where there is reasonable suspicion that a student's mobile device contains any material that has been, or could be used, to cause harm, undermine the safe environment of the school, or be used to commit an offence, staff members have the power to search students' phones in accordance with published statutory guidance by the Department for Education ([Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's other policies in particular the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Responsibility for mobile phones:

School accepts no responsibility **whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile devices. It is the responsibility of parents, carers and students to ensure mobile devices are properly insured.

Mobile Communication Devices Protocol

This should be considered alongside our Mobile Device Policy above. Students who wish to bring a mobile device to school must abide by the following protocol:

- Mobile devices must not be seen during the school day. They should be kept in your bag.
- Mobile devices must be turned off not just on silent mode.
- If a device is seen or heard during the school day it will be confiscated
- If the device is confiscated repeatedly students will serve time in IEU
- Devices may not be used in lessons as calculators.
- Devices are not to be used instead of watches.
- Devices may not be used in school for playing music.
- Devices are not to be used to take or record images in school at any time.
- **Devices are not allowed in examination rooms.**
- Students found abusing the use of a device (e.g. making threatening calls) will be banned from bringing the device to school.

The Headteacher's decision on all matters relating to mobile communication devices protocol is final