



Watling Academy

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Review Date: 1st October 2027

Date to be reviewed by:	1 st October 2027
Role of Reviewer:	Trust Designated Safeguarding Officer
Statutory (Y/N):	Y
Published on website: *	1A
Policy Level: **	1
Relevant to:	All
Produced in consultation with:	School DSL

*Publication on website			
The Alliance website		School website	
1	Statutory publication	A	Statutory publication
2	Good practice	B	Good practice
3	Not required	C	Not required

**Policy level			
1	Trust wide	Single policy relevant to everyone and consistently applied across all schools and departments, with no variation. e.g. Complaints procedure	Statutory policies approved by the The Alliance Board of Trustees (or designated Trustee Committee). Non-statutory policies approved by the CEO with exception of Executive Pay.
2	Trust core values	This policy defines the Trust core values in the form of a Trust statement to be incorporated fully into all other policies on this subject, that in addition contain relevant information, procedures and or processes contextualised to that school. e.g. Safeguarding, Behaviour	Statements in statutory policies approved by The Alliance Board of Trustees (or designated Trustee Committee). Statements in non-statutory policies approved by the CEO. Policy approved by Local School Board.
3	School/department	These policies/procedures are defined independently by schools as appropriate. E.g. Anti-bullying	Approved by Local School Board.

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1. Purpose and Principles

This policy sets out Watling Academy's expectations for mobile phones and electronic devices during the school day. It aligns with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on Mobile phones in schools (updated 29 June 2026), which states that schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day and ensure policies are clearly communicated to pupils, staff, and parents.

Our approach prioritises:

- A calm, focused learning environment
- Safeguarding and the prevention of misuse
- Clear, consistent expectations
- Fair and proportionate enforcement

2. Prohibition of Mobile Phones and Smart Devices

In line with DfE guidance on prohibiting the use of mobile phones in school, Watling Academy requires that:

- Mobile phones, smart watches and similar devices must not be used, seen, or heard at any point during the school day, including break and lunchtime.
- Devices may be brought to school for safety during travel but must be switched off and stored in bags or lockers immediately upon arrival.
- The academy accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.

This prohibition applies to:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches and Meta glasses with communication or recording capability
- Tablets and personal audio devices
- Any device capable of photography, video, or audio recording

3. Expectations for Pupils

- Pupils must follow the academy's rules on mobile phone and smart device storage and non-use.
- Pupils must not use devices to record, photograph, or share images or videos on school premises.
- Misuse, including posting images or videos associated with Watling Academy on social media, may result in serious sanctions, including Suspension, consistent with the DfE guidance on maintaining good order and safeguarding.

4. Expectations for Parents and Carers

Parents are expected to:

- Support the academy's prohibition of mobile phone and smart device use during the school day.
- Ensure their child understands the rules and stores devices appropriately.
- Avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day; urgent messages should go through the school office.
- Model responsible digital behaviour when engaging with the school community.

5. Role of Staff

Staff will:

- Consistently enforce the mobile phone policy.
- Challenge and confiscate devices that are visible or in use.
- Apply sanctions proportionately and in line with Behaviour Policy.
- Communicate clearly with pupils and parents when confiscation or further action is required.

6. Confiscation and Sanctions

Following DfE guidance on the use of sanctions and searching pupils:

Confiscation

- Any device seen or used during the school day will be confiscated.
- Confiscated devices will normally be returned at the end of the day, unless misuse warrants further action.

Searching

- Staff may conduct a search for a mobile phone if there is reasonable suspicion of serious misconduct, consistent with DfE guidance.
- Staff may ask for permission to access a device's memory only when necessary to investigate serious incidents, and any search will be limited to the specific issue.
- If a pupil refuses a reasonable request, sanctions may apply. In serious cases, the police may be contacted.

Sanctions

Sanctions may include:

- Confiscation for a defined period.
- Detentions.
- Internal suspension.

- Fixed-term suspension for serious misuse (e.g. recording or distributing images/videos).

7. Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments

In line with DfE guidance on adaptations and reasonable adjustments, the academy will consider:

- Individual needs for pupils with SEND
- Medical requirements (e.g. health-monitoring devices)
- Exceptional circumstances agreed in advance with parents

Any agreed adaptation will be documented and reviewed regularly.

8. Use of Mobile Phones Outside the School Day

The prohibition applies during the school day and whilst on school premises.

Before and after school, pupils may use devices responsibly, provided they:

- Do not record or photograph others on school grounds
- Do not engage in behaviour that could harm pupils, staff, or the academy's reputation
- Follow staff instructions during supervised activities, off-site visits, clubs, or fixtures

9. Communication of the Policy

The policy will be:

- Shared with pupils during induction and reinforced regularly
- Communicated clearly to parents via the website, newsletters, and home-school agreement
- Included in staff training and behaviour management guidance.

10. Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if DfE guidance changes.

[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)