


The Aylesbury Vale Academy Trust



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

Mobile Phone and Device Policy

Policy Reference:	AVA.171
Description:	This document describes how the school meets its obligations with regards to school attendance
Status:	Non-Statutory Policy
Policy Audience:	Parents/Carers
Academy Trust Contact:	This policy outlines the school's stance on the use of mobile phones by students.
Other Related Policies and Procedures:	Rewards and Behaviour Policy
Governor Committee:	Full Governing Body
Approved by the Governing Board on:	03.07.24
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Signed:	
Date of Signature:	03.07.24

Reviewing this policy, the Governing Board has had regard to the Equality Act 2010 and carried out an equality act assessment. It is satisfied that no group with a protected characteristic will be unfairly disadvantaged by policy.

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1. Introduction

This policy outlines the school's stance on the use of mobile phones by students.

Mobile phones, earphones/airpods or electronic devices must **never be used, seen, or heard** during school hours or on school premises. This includes classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and any other areas within the school boundaries.

2. Rationale

This rationale is in line with the Department for Education guidance, mobile phones https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cf5f2a4239310011b7b916/Mobile_phones_in_schools_guidance.pdf.

As per these guidelines, we are adopting a policy whereby pupils keep possession of their mobile phones, only on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard in school – with consequences for breaching this that are sufficient to act as an effective deterrent.

The Government guidance stipulates that it is important that schools enforce this policy vigorously, consistently and visibly, to the effect that mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day.

3. Aims

This policy aims to ensure a distraction-free learning environment, promote student engagement, and protect students from potential online risks during school hours.

- **Distraction-Free Learning:** Mobile phones can distract students from their lessons, reducing the effectiveness of teaching and learning.
- **Promoting Social Interaction:** Preventing phone use encourages face-to-face communication and the continued development of positive social skills.
- **Online Safety:** Eliminating phone use during the School day reduces exposure to online bullying and inappropriate content during school hours.
- **Behaviour Management:** Eliminating phones helps maintain positive behaviour standards and reduces incidents of phone-related bullying/misconduct.
- **Physical and Mental health and Wellbeing:** Eliminating phone use in the school day will promote physical activity and reduce low mood.
- **Equity:** A never used, seen or heard policy ensures all students have an equal learning environment without the pressure of having the latest technology.
- **Addiction:** Preventing phone use during the school day reduces the reliance on mobile devices

4. Details

- **Storage:** Upon arrival, students must switch off their Mobile phones, earphones/Airpods or electronic devices or turn them to silent and store them in their lockers, in a pocket or their bags. Phones **must not be used, seen or heard** before students enter the building.
- **Emergencies:** In case of emergencies, parents and carers should contact the school office. The school will relay the message to the student. Parents must not call or text their child. This encourages students to respond on their phone.
- **Enforcement:** If a student is found using, or letting their mobile phone, earphones/airpods or electronic devices be heard or seen during school hours, the phone will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day in the first instance. Repeated offences will result in further disciplinary action, outlined in the Rewards and Behaviour Policy.

Mobile phones, earphones/airpods or electronic devices used, seen or heard onsite will be confiscated and stored safely.

- **First confiscation:** returned to the student at the end of that day and detention issued S2.
- **Second confiscation:** returned only to a parent or carer and detention issued S3.
- **Third or further confiscation:** contract signed to hand over device upon entry to school and period of isolation served S4.

To help our students avoid these sanctions, parents and carers must not contact students during the school day. All messages to students can be passed to the relevant Year group enquiries email address, or reception. They will be passed on.

Students who refuse to follow instructions to hand over their device to staff after a breach/persistent breaches of the school's Rewards & Behaviour Policy will be fixed term suspended.

5. Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy, such as for medical reasons, must be pre-approved by school administration and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, staff may ask a student to contact a parent or carer using the students' own phone, for example to notify a parent or carer of where the student is, such as on a trip.

Year 12 and 13 students may only use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form Common Room and for educational purposes.