



KING EDWARD VI
SHELDON HEATH ACADEMY

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Other relevant documents:

Behaviour Policy

Exclusion Policy

Safeguarding Policy

This policy is supported and enhanced by the following documents and policies:

- DfE: Behaviour and Discipline in Schools
- Education and inspections Act 2006



This policy was adopted by the Student Welfare Committee in February 2022. Next review due Spring Term 2025, or earlier if the need arises.

1. Introduction and aims

At KESH Academy we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- ▶ Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- ▶ Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- ▶ Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- ▶ Risks to child protection
- ▶ Data protection issues
- ▶ Potential for lesson disruption
- ▶ Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- ▶ Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Principal is responsible for monitoring the policy every 3 years, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

2.2 Governors

The Academy Governors through the Student Welfare Committee will regularly monitor and evaluate the impact and implementation of this policy.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, during contact time unless there is an emergency which requires them to do so. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room/work rooms and offices).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- ▶ For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- ▶ In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members
- ▶ In the case of a PE lesson in which a student gets injured and on call is needed urgently

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information. Please see the Academy Trust IT Acceptable Use Policy for further information.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- ▶ Emergency evacuations
- ▶ Supervising off-site trips
- ▶ Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- ▶ Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- ▶ Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- ▶ Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or via a school mobile that will be available to those organising trips and visits.

3.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by the school for work purposes.

Only authorised staff are permitted to use school phones, and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.

Staff must:

- ▶ Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communications, or using the internet
- ▶ Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with our staff code of conduct.

3.6 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the school's staff disciplinary policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

If students choose to bring a mobile phone to the Academy it should be switched off and not used at any point during the Academy day. If students need to contact a family member they can speak to their pastoral manager or Head of Year to facilitate this.

During PE lessons it is the responsibility of the student to hand in mobile phones to the teacher for safe-keeping.

Students are not permitted to listen to music via phones or other devices whilst at the Academy.

4.1 Sanctions

If students are seen using their phone at any point during the Academy day their mobile will be confiscated and stored in the Academy safe. Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006).

Any mobile phone that is confiscated will be available for collection by the students' parent/carer any time after 3:30pm on that day. Mobile phones will not be returned directly to students.

Staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil's phone if we have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- ▶ Upskirting
- ▶ Threats of violence or assault
- ▶ Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

- ▶ Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- ▶ Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- ▶ Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

- ▶ Use their phone to make contact with other parents
- ▶ Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the Academy safe.

Lost phones should be returned to student services. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

Use of mobile phones in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the staff room.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.
