

SAIL Academy

Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

2026-2027

Policy Status: Adopted

Policy Owner: Headteacher

Approved By: Regional Director

Date Approved: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

1. Policy Statement

SAIL Academy is committed to providing a calm, safe, inclusive and purposeful learning environment where all pupils can focus on learning, develop positive relationships and achieve their full potential.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Mobile Phones in Schools*, which came into effect on 1 September 2026. The guidance states that schools should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**, with any exceptions occurring only in limited and clearly defined circumstances. [\[gov.uk\]](#), [\[gov.uk\]](#)

SAIL Academy recognises that some pupils may bring mobile phones to school for safety reasons related to travel arrangements before and after the school day. However, mobile phones and other personal smart devices must not be used during the school day unless an authorised exception has been agreed by the Headteacher or a delegated senior leader.

The Academy's approach supports:

- Positive behaviour and engagement
- Safeguarding and pupil welfare
- Reduced distractions to learning
- Positive social interaction
- Improved attendance, conduct and wellbeing
- A culture where pupils can learn free from unnecessary technological distractions

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Maintain a mobile phone-free learning environment.
- Promote pupils' educational achievement and engagement.
- Safeguard pupils and staff from risks associated with inappropriate technology use.
- Reduce opportunities for cyberbullying and online conflict during the school day.
- Support positive mental health and wellbeing.
- Provide clear and consistent expectations for pupils, staff and parents.
- Ensure compliance with statutory DfE expectations. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

3. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils attending SAIL Academy and covers:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smart watches
- Tablets
- Earbuds and headphones
- Gaming devices
- Wearable technology
- Any device capable of:
 - Accessing the internet
 - Sending or receiving messages
 - Taking photographs
 - Recording video
 - Recording audio

- Connecting to social media platforms

4. Definition of the School Day

For the purposes of this policy, the school day begins when a pupil enters the academy site and ends when they leave the site at the end of the day.

This includes:

- Registration periods
- Lessons
- Interventions
- Therapy sessions
- Assemblies
- Movement between lessons
- Breaktimes
- Lunchtimes
- Enrichment activities
- Educational visits, unless alternative arrangements are communicated by the Academy

5. Expectations for Pupils

Upon arrival at school, pupils must:

- Hand it over to the tutor or class TA on arrival;

Mobile phones and smart devices must not be:

- Seen
- Heard
- Used
- Charged
- Shared with others

during any part of the school day.

SAIL Academy operates as a **mobile phone-free environment**, and access to personal devices during the school day will occur only in exceptional circumstances authorised by senior leaders.

[\[gov.uk\]](#), [\[gov.uk\]](#)

6. Smart Watches and Wearable Devices

Smart watches or wearable technology that are capable of:

- Making or receiving calls
- Sending or receiving messages
- Accessing the internet
- Taking photographs
- Recording audio or video

must be switched to flight mode and communication functions disabled before entering the Academy.

Where this cannot be guaranteed, pupils may be required to store or hand in devices during the school day.

7. Mobile Phone/MPS use for music

At SAIL Academy, we recognise that some pupils may benefit from listening to music as a strategy to support emotional regulation and engagement. This provision will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it has been agreed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the pupil's tutor as part of an individual support plan. It is not intended as a universal provision for all pupils. Where music is approved for this purpose, pupils must use an MP3 player or other dedicated music device. Mobile phones, including those without a SIM card, are not permitted for this use under any circumstances.

8. Secure Storage

To support compliance with this policy, the Academy requires mobile phones to be:

- Handed in on arrival;
- Stored in designated secure lockers;
- Secured in approved locations;

The storage arrangements used by the Academy may vary according to pupil needs, safeguarding requirements and operational considerations.

The Academy accepts no responsibility for devices brought onto site unless they have been formally handed into staff for safekeeping.

9. Communication During the School Day

Parents and carers should not contact pupils directly via personal mobile devices during the school day.

Where communication is required:

- Parents and carers should contact the Academy office.
- Pupils wishing to contact home should do so through the school office or an authorised member of staff.

The Academy will ensure urgent messages are passed to pupils promptly.

10. Educational Use

Personal mobile phones and smart devices will not ordinarily be used for educational activities.

Where technology is required for learning:

- Academy-owned devices will be used whenever possible.
- Any exception must be approved by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Pupils must follow all expectations contained within the Academy's Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policies.

11. Photography, Video and Audio Recording

To protect privacy, dignity and safeguarding:

Pupils must not use personal devices to:

- Take photographs on Academy premises
- Record video footage

- Capture audio recordings
- Live stream activity
- Upload content to social media

without explicit staff permission.

The unauthorised recording of staff, pupils or visitors may be treated as a serious breach of both behaviour and safeguarding expectations and may result in further sanctions.

Where illegal or safeguarding concerns arise, the matter may be referred to external agencies.

12. Breaches of the Policy

Any device that is seen, heard, used or accessed during the school day without permission will be confiscated.

First Incident

- Device confiscated.
- Parent/carer informed who must come and collect device from SAIL Reception

Second Incident

- Device confiscated.
- Parent/carer informed Parent/carer informed who must come and collect device from SAIL Reception
- Meeting with a member of SLT to complete student/parent agreement regarding mobile phones

Repeated or Persistent Breaches

- Device confiscated.
- Parent/carer informed Parent/carer informed who must come and collect device from SAIL Reception
- Meeting with a member of SLT to complete student/parent agreement regarding mobile phones
- Repeated or Persistent breaches will result in suspension

Refusal to comply with staff instructions regarding mobile phones may be treated as a serious behavioural incident.

13. Searching and Confiscation

Authorised staff may confiscate devices where Academy rules have been breached.

Where there is reasonable suspicion that a device contains material that presents a safeguarding risk, staff will act in accordance with:

- Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance
- Behaviour in Schools Guidance
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

All actions will be proportionate, lawful and focused on safeguarding pupils and staff. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

14. Safeguarding

The Academy recognises that the unrestricted use of mobile phones and connected devices can present significant safeguarding risks, including:

- Cyberbullying
- Online harassment
- Exposure to harmful, inappropriate or extremist content
- Social media misuse
- Privacy breaches and data protection concerns
- Sharing of inappropriate, indecent or harmful images
- Unauthorised photography, video recording or audio recording
- Disruption to learning and wellbeing
- Contact with unknown individuals online
- Access to or use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in unsafe or inappropriate ways

The Academy is particularly concerned about the use of mobile devices to capture, create, manipulate, store, share or upload images, audio recordings or videos without consent. Once digital content has been shared online, including through social media platforms, messaging services or AI systems, individuals may lose control over how that content is used, altered or distributed. AI technologies can be used to manipulate images, audio and video to create misleading, harmful or indecent content, which may cause significant emotional distress, reputational damage and safeguarding concerns.

Pupils must understand that creating, possessing, sharing or distributing inappropriate images, videos or recordings of another person, particularly where there is no consent, may constitute a serious breach of Academy expectations and, in some circumstances, a criminal offence. This includes the creation or sharing of digitally altered, AI-generated or synthetic content intended to harm, humiliate, threaten or exploit others.

Any safeguarding concerns arising from the use of mobile phones, digital devices or AI technologies will be managed in accordance with the Academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy and Online Safety procedures. Where appropriate, concerns may be reported to external agencies, including Children's Social Care, the Police, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or other relevant safeguarding partners.

The Academy is committed to educating pupils about the safe, responsible and lawful use of technology, including the risks associated with AI, online content sharing, digital footprints and consent.

15. Reasonable Adjustments and Exceptions

SAIL Academy recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and understands that some pupils may require access to technology for:

- Medical needs
- Disabilities
- SEND requirements
- Individual risk assessments
- Exceptional safeguarding circumstances

Any exception to this policy must:

- Be agreed by the Headteacher or delegated senior leader.

- Be recorded in writing.
- Form part of a healthcare plan, EHCP, risk assessment or agreed support plan where appropriate.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered on an individual basis and will balance the needs of the pupil with the safety and effective operation of the Academy. [\[phb.co.uk\]](http://phb.co.uk), [\[gov.uk\]](http://gov.uk)

16. Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils are responsible for:

- Following this policy at all times.
- Storing devices appropriately.
- Handing over devices when requested.
- Using technology responsibly.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the policy consistently.
- Challenging breaches appropriately.
- Recording incidents where required.
- Reporting safeguarding concerns promptly.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Support the Academy's mobile phone-free approach.
- Avoid contacting pupils directly during the school day.
- Reinforce Academy expectations at home.
- Collect confiscated devices when required.

Governors and Trustees

Governors and trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring appropriate policy oversight.

- Monitoring implementation through behaviour and safeguarding reporting.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the policy as part of wider governance responsibilities.

17. Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Procedures

18. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy throughout the academic year.

The Local Governing Board and/or Trust Board will receive periodic updates regarding mobile phone-related behaviour, safeguarding concerns and policy compliance as part of their oversight of behaviour, safeguarding and pupil welfare.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner should legislation, statutory guidance or Academy circumstances change.

Headteacher: Daniel Goldstraw

Regional Director: Jackie Green

Date Approved: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

This policy is aligned with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on Mobile Phones in Schools effective from 1 September 2026 and supports the creation of a calm, safe and distraction-free learning environment. [\[gov.uk\]](#), [\[gov.uk\]](#)