CHILDWALL
SPORTS &
SCIENCE ACADEMY

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy

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LYDIATE
LEARNING TRUST

Origination	Authorised by	Policy Date	Page 1 of 4	Review Date
JWI	Headteacher	***May 2026***		***July 2027***

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

1. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy

*Wherever 'mobile phones and devices' are referred to in the policy, this includes smartphones, mobile phones, earphones and earbuds, iPads, tablets and all smart watches.

2. Our Rationale:

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our students own an electronic device of some format. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology can present several issues for students. In the interest of our students' mental health, we understand that a break from smartphones and devices creates a safe and calm environment free from distraction allowing students to receive the education they deserve.

3. Mobile devices are not permitted on the school site without a pouch

At Childwall Sports and Science Academy we take our responsibility to safeguard our learners seriously. Research into student health and wellbeing increasingly identifies mobile phones and social media platforms as the cause of significant distress and anxiety to young people. The Department for Education (DFE) published guidance to schools in February 2024 that asked all schools to 'prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.' It is our policy that students leave their mobile phones and devices at home wherever possible, to ensure the increased usage of mobile devices does not have a detrimental effect on the mental wellbeing of our students. Our intention is to have disruption and distraction free learning for all our students.

*Individual exceptions are referenced within this policy.

4. Policy detail. How this works:

- Mobile phones and electronic devices are not to be brought onto the school premises by students, unless they are secured in a Childwall SSA Phone Pouch on arrival at the school gates.

- The school accepts that parents may give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety on the way to and from school. Therefore, it is the responsibility of students who choose to bring mobile phones and devices to school to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.

- Parents/Carers who wish their child to have a mobile phone on their person to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety on the way to and from school, must support this policy by expecting their child to place their mobile devices into their Childwall SSA pouch on entering the school sit or hand their phone/device to staff at the start of the day before they enter the site if they do not have a pouch. Any device(s) that need to be handed in will be stored in a safe place for the day, away from classrooms. The device(s) will be available to collect at the end of the school day from the same place as it was handed over.

- Magnets will be available at both key stage gates in the morning and at the end of the day to release/open the phone pouches.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

- Parents/Carers should refrain from contacting their children during the school day via mobile phones. Similarly, it is not acceptable for students to contact parents during the school day via mobile phones. The school office remains the first point of communication between school and home in an emergency.

- If a student is found to have a device(s) on them during the school day, they will be required to hand it/them over immediately. These will then be available for parents/carers to collect from the school office at the end of the day, or at a time that is convenient for both staff and parents/carers. Students will not be permitted to collect them in these circumstances. The school office is open until 4pm daily.

- Failure to hand over the device(s) will escalate in line with the school's behaviour policy.

- Parents of students that choose to repeatedly breach this mobile device policy will be invited to attend a meeting with their Head of Year. Parents along with the student must then sign a contract with the understanding, should the student breach the mobile devices contract, the mobile device will be confiscated and held until the end of the current half term when parents will be required to collect the device at an arranged date.

- If a student is attending detention, as per our school behaviour policy. The rules outlined above continue to apply. Phones/magnets will be available at the end of the detention.

- If students are attending extra-curricular sessions, the rules outlined above continue to apply. If a student needs to contact home to confirm attendance at the session, this should be done on an office phone with permission of the member of staff running the session. Phones/magnets will be available at the end of the extra-curricular activity.

5. Contacting Parents/Carers:

We appreciate that there may be times when a parent/carer will need to get an urgent message to their child. The following is in place to support you:

- ♦ Parents/Carers wishing to pass a non-urgent message to their child during the school day, should call the school office using 0151-722-1561. A staff member will communicate with the student during the school day.

- ♦ In case of an urgent message, parents/carers should call the school using 0151-722-1561, state politely that the matter is urgent, and a staff member will communicate with the student immediately.

- Students needing to contact parents/carers during the school day, urgently, should request to use the phone at student services during break or lunchtime.

- If your child is unwell or injured they must attend Student Services where a member of staff will contact home. Students must not use a mobile phone to contact home.

- If your child is unwell,

- Students will not be allowed to contact parents/carers during lesson time.

- There may be individual agreements that have been arranged by our Pastoral Leaders or our SEND team that are the exception to this rule. You and your child will know your plan. The named member of staff that has drawn up your bespoke plan will review this regularly throughout the year.

6. School trips/Extracurricular activities

Mobile phones may be required for external educational visits and extra-curricular activities such as sporting fixtures, and this will be communicated by the trip leader prior to the activity. If they are not required for the trip, there will be a magnet available to release the phones at the end of the trip.

7. Sixth Form

We expect our sixth form students to set an example for the rest of the student body. Therefore, mobile devices and associated devices (e.g. Bluetooth headphones/earphones) must not be seen, heard or used socially in the wider school during the school day, this includes corridors and classrooms. Sixth form students can use mobile phones for learning in the sixth form building and private study spaces.

8. Exemptions

We appreciate that there may be an exceptional case which warrants the use of a mobile phone during the school day that will, in some cases, be supported by one or more of the following;

- A clearly identified medical need dependent on bespoke mobile applications e.g. Diabetes.
- Written guidance from a medical professional at consultation level. (Not GP advice)
- An agreement in an Educational Health Care Plan. (EHCP)
- In an emergency (e.g. School closure notice issued by the Headteacher)

Thank you for your support in reinforcing the importance of this policy to your child and helping them understand the reasons behind it.