

Mobile Phone & Smart Devices Policy

Date reviewed: September 2026

Date of next review: September 2027

Approved by: Trust Board



Polaris
Multi-Academy Trust

CONTENTS	
1	Policy Statement
2	Trust Position Statement
3	Application
4	Legislative and Regulatory Framework
5	Objectives
6	Scope
7	Trust Expectations
8	Exceptions
9	Safeguarding
10	Searches and Confiscation
11	Staff Use of Mobile Phones
12	Visitors, Contractors and Volunteers
13	Roles and Responsibilities
14	Monitoring, Assurance and Reporting
15	Equality Impact
16	This policy will be reviewed annually.

1. Policy Statement

Polaris Multi Academy Trust is committed to providing calm, safe and disruption-free learning environments where all pupils can thrive. In line with the Department for Education Statutory Guidance Mobile Phones in Schools (June 2026), the Trust expects all academies to be mobile phone-free environments by default throughout the school day.

2. Trust Position Statement

Polaris Multi Academy Trust fully supports the Department for Education expectation that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. Individual academies retain responsibility for local implementation arrangements provided these meet the minimum standards established by this policy.

3. Application

This policy applies to: All Academies, Nurseries, Pupils, Employees, Volunteers, Contractors and Visitors.

4. Legislative and Regulatory Framework

This policy should be read alongside DfE Mobile Phones in Schools guidance, Behaviour in Schools, Keeping Children Safe in Education, UK GDPR, Trust Behaviour Policy, Trust Safeguarding Policy and Trust Online Safety Policy.

5. Objectives

- Create safe and distraction-free learning environments.
- Promote positive behaviour and engagement with learning.
- Reduce risks associated with online harms and cyberbullying.
- Ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance.

6. Scope

This policy applies to mobile phones, smartphones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets, smart glasses and any device capable of communication, internet access, photography, video or audio recording.

7. Trust Expectations

All academies must operate a mobile phone-free school day. Pupils must not use personal mobile phones during lessons, transitions, breaktimes, lunchtimes, assemblies, interventions or educational visits unless an authorised exception applies.

8. Exceptions

Exceptions may be authorised for medical needs, SEND requirements, documented reasonable adjustments, approved educational activities and exceptional circumstances determined by the Head of School.

9. Safeguarding

Mobile phones can present safeguarding risks including cyberbullying, online exploitation, harmful content and unauthorised photography. Concerns must be managed in accordance with Trust safeguarding procedures.

10. Searches and Confiscation

Authorised staff may confiscate and search for devices in accordance with legislation, DfE guidance and Trust Academies behaviour procedures.

11. Employees Use of Mobile Phones

Employees are expected to model appropriate behaviours and comply with the Staff Code of Conduct as detailed in the Trust Staff Handbook.

12. Visitors, Contractors and Volunteers

Visitors must comply with the Trust and its Academies safeguarding requirements and must not photograph or record pupils without authorisation. Visitors must also apply the same high standards modelled by Trust employees in their use of mobile devices.

13. Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust Board approves the policy and monitors compliance. The CEO ensures implementation across the Trust. Heads of School establish local procedures and provide assurance of compliance.

14. Monitoring, Assurance and Reporting

Academies will report compliance through Trust review, safeguarding and assurance processes.

15. Equality Impact

Reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

16. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.