

Mobile Technologies Policy

The Brunts Academy



Approved by: Executive Principal
(CFI)

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CONTENTS (page):

1. Policy and guidance
2. Roles and responsibilities, student use
3. Use of devices by students
4. Use of devices by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors
5. Confiscation, search and consent
6. Monitoring

1. Policy introduction and aims

At Brunts Academy, we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are a necessary part of everyday life for our students, parents, and staff, as well as the wider academy community. It is our aim to promote an understanding of this necessity, whilst prioritising a focus on student safety, welfare and learning.

This policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible use of technology including smartphones
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for students, staff, parents/carers, and volunteers
- Support the academy's other policies, especially those related to safeguarding and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by potential mobile phone use in academy, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson/learning disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in learning spaces

2. DfE Guidance

The Academy follows DfE guidance published in February 2024:

[Mobile phones in schools - February 2024](#)

Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone.

1. *Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. One in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission.*
2. *This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning. We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils have experienced bullying online.*
3. *By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices. This is why we are determined that all schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day – not only during lessons but break and lunchtimes as well.*

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Staff

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

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

The Senior Vice Principal (Culture and Conduct) is responsible for monitoring the policy every year, reviewing it, and holding staff and students accountable for its implementation.

3.2 Governance

The Executive Principal and The Greenwood Academies Trust are responsible for ensuring this policy is applied appropriately and fairly.

4. Use of mobile phones by students

At The Brunts Academy we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our students, parents, and staff, as well as the wider academy community. We also recognise that smart watches, headphones and other electronic devices are part of society today.

Electronic devices play a key part of keeping students safe, specifically when travelling to and from academy. Therefore, students are allowed to bring electronic devices to academy for safety purposes, however they must be **switched off** once they have arrived at academy and stored in their bag throughout the duration of the day. **They should never be seen, heard or known to be used on site.**

4.1 Devices on site

We employ a **'not seen, not heard, not known to be used'** strategy for management of personal devices for our students.

Students must adhere to the academy's **acceptable use agreement** for mobile technology use.

We do not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to devices when brought into the academy

Students must always adhere to this policy whilst they are physically present on the academy site or when they are wearing the academy uniform.

This means:

- Not taking any pictures/video or recordings of students or staff
- Adhering to the acceptable use agreement
- Following data protection law and GDPR

Students must not enter site at all with a phone visible (must be switched off and placed into their bag). Phones can be removed for use again after 3pm when a student has exited their learning space and is outside academy the buildings. This is to facilitate a safe exit from site. Staff on duty at the end of the day will ensure the **acceptable use agreement remains in place at this time and that students stay safe around busy roads for their own safety (Heads up phones down).**

4.2 Post-16

At The Brunts Academy we recognise that our sixth form students are young adults and demonstrate the ethos and values of the Academy, in leadership roles. As such, they are afforded a range of privileges commensurate with their age, maturity, and expectations of them as ambassadors. Mobile phones may be used by sixth form students in designated **'green areas'** to aid study and Academy communications. These areas are on the first floor of Dalton (common room and study area)

4.3 Corrections

Should a student not adhere to the 'not seen, not heard, not known to be used' strategy then the device/equipment will be confiscated, and the following arrangements will apply:

- 1st instance in a half term: parent collects the device at the end of the academy day
2nd instance in a half term, parent collection and meeting with HoY/Achievement Leader
3rd instance in a half term, parent collection, meeting with SLT and **phone handed in daily at reception**

Please refer to the Culture and Conduct policy for further detail on corrections

4.4 Exceptional circumstances

Where a student uses an electronic device to manage diabetes or other medical condition, this will be permitted once agreed with academy leaders. Monitoring of medical conditions requiring a phone must be in the medical area where there is supervision (Student reception).

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

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

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of students, unless it is a public event (such as an academy celebration event)
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons/learning spaces, or when working with students
- Not recording meetings or interactions with staff, without prior consent being sought

Parents/carers, 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 academy, this is included in safeguarding information presented at reception on sign in.

Parents/carers or volunteers supervising academy trips or residential visits must not:

- Use their phone to contact other parents
- Take photos or recordings of students, their work, or anything else which could identify a student

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

Parents/carers must use the academy office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the academy day. They must not try to contact their child on their personal mobile during the academy day. This is because this often causes unnecessary anxiety and can result in the child having their device removed

6. Loss, theft or damage

Students bringing phones to academy for safety purposes must ensure that phone is switched off and stored in their bag during the day.

Students must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions.

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

Lost phones should be returned to Main Reception. The academy will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Confiscation, search and consent

7.1 Confiscating Items

Section 91 Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives academies power to discipline students which enables a member of staff to confiscate, keep or dispose of student's property as a disciplinary measure where it is reasonable to do so. Staff have a defence to any complaint provided they act within their legal powers. The law protects members of staff from liability for any loss of or damage to any confiscated item, provided that they have acted lawfully.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the Main reception in the safe until collection by a parent or carer.

The process of confiscation will be applied in line with the academy's Culture and relationships policy and Safeguarding Policy.

7.2 Examining electronic devices

Staff have the power to search students' phones, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). The DfE guidance outlines that staff members have the right to search a student's phone if we have reason to believe the phone contains inappropriate images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.

Where possible, a search of a student's phone will be conducted by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or Principal or a member of the safeguarding team.

Certain types of conduct, bullying, or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The academy takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate. This may require retaining the electronic devices for the appropriate agency to investigate further.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude, indecent images or videos)
- Up skirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Footage of serious violence
- Footage of other criminal activity
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone based on someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or other protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010)

For further information and definitions of the above examples, please refer to the academy's Culture and relationships policy (behaviour), Safeguarding Policy and/or Anti-Bullying Policy.

7.3 Consent

There is no obligation on academies to inform or seek the consent of parents before examining a personal device.

Academies do not have to make or keep a record of an examination. Any complaints about searching or examination should be dealt with through the trust Complaints Policy. Brunts Academy records all searches of a child on their safeguarding database - CPOMS

8. Monitoring and review

Our Academies are committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of students' education, behaviour, and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the academy will consider:

- Feedback from parents and students
- Feedback from staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents across the trust
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

9. Links to other policies

- Acceptable Use Policy (2024)
- Anti-Bullying Policy (2025)
- Culture and Relationships (Behaviour) Policy (2025)
- Complaints Policy (2021)
- Educational Trips and Visits (2022)
- Safeguarding Policy (September 2024)