



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy 2026-27

Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	JW
Last Review Date:	May 2026
Next Review Date:	May 2027

Aims

The policy aims to:

- Outline the expectations and consequences with regard to mobile phone usage and smart technology with similar functionality at AGSB.
- Provide a clear, consistent and sustainable strategy to ensure a mobile phone-free environment at AGSB.

Laws, Legislation and Guidance

- [Educations and Inspections Act \(2006\)](#)
- [DfE Behaviour in Schools](#)

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [The Department for Education \(DfE\) Mobile Phones in Schools](#)
- [DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation in Schools](#)

Rationale

Mobile phones and smart technology are a distraction, reduce students' attention span and have a negative impact on learning. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that the use of mobile phones and smart technology during the School day can reduce educational performance and have a negative impact on young people's wellbeing. At AGSB we have a zero-tolerance approach to the use of mobile phones on the school site. We also recommend that students in Years 7-11 are not given a smart phone.

By implementing a zero-tolerance approach to mobile phone usage during the School day, we hope to reduce exposure to online harm, protect students from screen-related anxiety and reduce the social pressure to own a mobile phone. This new approach will also reinforce the message that concentration is respected, dialogue is valued, and learning deserves protected time and space.

Above all, this Policy supports a community where students show respect for one another, take responsibility for their learning, and develop a deep love of learning unburdened by unnecessary distractions.

Expectations

To implement this Policy effectively, we require the full support of both students and parents in allowing the school to confiscate mobile phones and/or smart devices if they are seen in use.

There will be no exceptions. The Department for Education (DfE) expects all schools to operate as mobile phone-free environments by default. Therefore, any student found using their phone - whether to check the time, view their timetable, access online homework platforms, use social media, or make calls or texts - at any point from when they arrive on school site until 3:20pm will have their device confiscated. Students will be expected to comply immediately and without challenge.

Parents are asked to fully support this policy and avoid placing the School in a position where staff are challenged for enforcing it. If such challenges occur, we will follow the Hamblin Education Trust (HET) protocol for addressing unacceptable behaviour from parents and escalate where appropriate.

If students have a phone, they are expected to have it switched off and stored in their bag during the School day. There are no circumstances in which parents should contact their son(s) directly on their mobile phone during school hours, or vice versa. All urgent matters must be handled through the school reception.

Sixth Form students are authorised to use their phones in the Sixth Form Centre only and only during break and lunchtime. All Sixth Form students should have a laptop and digital device with them during Private Study, so there is no need to use a mobile phone during these periods. Sixth Form students remain subject to the school's behaviour policy and misuse of their phone will lead to the phone being confiscated.

Authorisation for mobile phone use at KS4/5 for recording or archiving work (where doing so manually would be labour-intensive or time-consuming) is at the discretion of staff. Such use will be rare, and the school reserves the right to permit it only in limited circumstances.

Procedures

Students caught using their mobile phone or other devices with smart functionality **anywhere on school grounds** from their arrival on site to 3:20pm will have it confiscated and handed to reception. It will be recorded on Arbor and parents will be notified either by phone or via the Arbor messaging facility.

In the first instance, the mobile phone or smart device will be confiscated for **three school days**. After the three-day confiscation period, students can collect their device from reception after 3:20pm. If that three-day period falls over a weekend, the device will remain in the School safe over the weekend. Examples of how this might work can be found in the FAQs section of this Policy.

For second or repeat incidences of mobile phone or smart device usage during the hours specified, they will be confiscated for **five school days**.

On confiscation, for the purposes of communication with parents and travel home from school, we can issue a “basic phone”. This will not be done by default, but on request of parents. A SIM adapter can allow for other SIM sizes to be used in these “basic phones”, but we cannot accommodate eSIMS.

Smart Watches and Smart Technology

Where mobile phones are required to be switched off in accordance with this policy, any associated messaging or social media functionality on other personal devices (including non-cellular, data-enabled devices) must also not be used.

Smart watches should only be used for checking the time. If, in the reasonable judgement of a member of staff, a smart watch is being used for any other purpose, it will be confiscated and dealt with in line with the school’s mobile phone policy.

FAQs

- 1) What happens if my son has his phone confiscated on a Wednesday AM? How does the three day rule work? **If your son’s phone is confiscated at any time on a Wednesday, the three day rule will apply for Thursday, Friday and Monday, thus staying in the School safe over the weekend.**
- 2) What happens if my son’s phone is confiscated in the run-up to an end-of-term break? **In these circumstances, phones confiscated that might roll over into the holiday can be collected after 3:20pm on the Friday before the term ends. We will not operate a roll over and expect the phone to be handed in at the commencement of the new term/half-term.**

- 3) My son's bus pass and contactless payment cards are stored on his phone, how will he get home? You will be expected to make arrangements to collect your son or provide him with either cash or a physical payment card to ensure he can travel home.
- 4) What features do the "basic phones" have? Basic phones allow the ability to call and text. They have no social media app functionality or camera.
- 5) How will I know my son's phone has been confiscated, in order to request a basic phone? It will be recorded on Arbor, and you will be notified either by phone or via the Arbor messaging facility.
- 6) My son has a health condition that means he needs to access an app on his phone to monitor his blood sugar. Can his phone be confiscated? As per the [Equality Act \(2010\)](#), we will make reasonable adjustments and allow these students access to their phone when necessary to manage their health condition effectively.
- 7) What if my son is unwell during the day and needs to contact me? Your son should **always** contact you via the school reception. We can arrange for him to speak to you privately if required, but it must be done via school.
- 8) What if the basic phone that school has issued is lost or damaged whilst in my son's possession? Any items loaned to students from school are considered school property, thus will need paying for to replace.