

South Devon UTC Phone Policy

January 2026

Why this policy exists?

South Devon UTC prepares students for the world of work. To support this, and in line with the DfE's non-statutory guidance on mobile phones/smart watches in college (2024), we expect students to understand when mobile phone/smart watches, use is appropriate and how to use their device respectfully, safely and professionally.

This policy will come into force on *Monday 23rd February 2026*.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Support focus and learning
- Promote responsible, workplace-ready behaviour
- Ensure phones are used only when appropriate and authorised

When you cannot use your phone

Once you have passed the red line at reception, your phone/smart watch must be:

- Switched off
- In your bag (if no bag, the phone/smart watch will be handed into reception for the duration of the day)
- Not used or visible

You may not use your phone:

- Once you have passed the red line at reception
- During transitions between lessons
- At all breaktimes
- In assemblies
- To take any photos, videos or recordings

Getting ready for the workplace

Most employers expect limited personal phone use, professional behaviour with digital devices, and the ability to manage distractions. At UTC, we help you develop these skills.

What happens if you break the rules

- **First Offence** – You'll get a warning and your phone/smart watch will be taken until the end of that college day. It will be stored at reception for your collection.
- **Second Offence** – Your phone/smart watch will be taken and a parent/carer will have to come to college and collect it. It will not be given to students directly.
- **Ongoing issues** – You may lose the right to bring your phone/smart watch to college and face further consequences.

Medical Exception

While the UTC follows the Department for Education's guidance to keep the UTC day mobile-phone free, we recognise that some students need access to their device for essential medical reasons. For example, students with Type 1 Diabetes, a mobile phone may be required to monitor glucose levels or operate linked insulin-management technology. National guidance confirms that where a phone is needed to manage a medical condition, it is reasonable for the UTC to allow this.

Therefore, students whose healthcare plans specify that their mobile phone is an essential part of their medical condition management will be permitted to use it for medical purposes only.

Health - Mobile Phone Agreement

- The student's family and school agree that the phone must:
 - Stay on silent/vibrate except for medical alerts.
 - Be used only for medical related monitoring, not communication or social media.
- In class: The student is issued a Medical Phone Pass (Class Charts). This confirms:
 - The device is medically required
 - The phone must remain on and accessible at all times for medical management
 - Keep the phone on their desk or in a designated visible place, OR leave it on a teacher's desk where alerts can still be seen/heard.

A few more things

- **Your phone/smart watch = your responsibility**
- The UTC isn't responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged phones
- If something urgent happens and you need to call home, speak to a member of staff or go to reception
- If something is urgent outside of college (ie: your mum or dad needs to call you) then they are able to call reception on 01626 240201 and the message will get to you.

Final Word

Use your phone/smart watch responsibly, respectfully and professionally — just as you would in the workplace. At all other times, phones/smart watches must remain switched off and in your bag.

Claire PLUMB | Headteacher | South Devon UTC

30th January 2026

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