

1. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

1.1 In line with the Department for Education [mobile phone](#) guidance, Dartmouth Academy is a **mobile phone – free environment**. This applies to any personal electronic device with potential access to the internet, this includes kindles, tablets and smart watches.

1.2 Dartmouth Academy does not expect parents and carers to provide a mobile phone. Where possible, we would like pupils not to be tempted by having a mobile phone due to the research around the negative impact on learning, concentration and attention. No member of staff will expect mobile phones to be used to support learning activities.

1.3 However, if you wish for your child to carry a mobile phone to school, they must adhere to the following:

- All mobile phones and any other devices must be handed in during morning tutorial/class teacher
- If for any reason a pupil is late, all mobile phones and any other devices must be handed into Reception
- Mobile phones and devices will be securely stored for the school day
- If a child needs to make contact with parents/carers or vice versa, this can be done via the school Reception
- Mobile phones will be returned at the end of the Academy day where they must then remain turned off in pupils' bags until they leave the Academy site

1.4 In the first instance, if a mobile phone or electronic device is seen during the Academy Day, the pupil will receive a whole day internal redirection, and the phone will be confiscated, and the parents/carers will be expected to collect the device from the Academy Reception. If it is a repeat incident the pupil will be suspended for 1 day and parents/carers will be expected to collect the confiscated phone from the Academy Reception.

1.5 If a mobile phone or device is heard and not seen, bag searches may be performed to identify the owner. The above consequences will then be applied. Any phone that is seen outside of a pupils' bag (this includes in pupils' pockets etc.) or heard during the academy day will automatically be confiscated and consequences will apply.

1.6 The Academy's mobile phone policy remains the same on all trips and residentials any adaptations to this will be communicated to you by the trip leader.

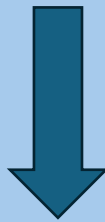
Consequences Flow Diagram

Pupil seen with phone in their pocket

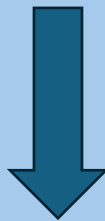
Pupil phone goes off in their bag or pocket

Pupil is caught checking their phone on or around the school site

A bag search finds a phone in a pupil's bag



Phone is confiscated



Phone must be collected by a parent/carer

- 1st instance = 1 day internal
- Further instances = 1 day suspension

How other schools across the UK have successfully implemented a 'simple phones only' policy and addressed common concerns

1. Do schools have a legal right to keep a child's phone?

Yes, the DfE guidance allows schools to confiscate property. As part of the policy development, we have spoken to our local police team and they have confirmed we have a legal right to do so and that they support our right to confiscated property as this is a civil matter and supported by DfE guidance. Ofsted supports schools' rights to confiscation of banned items in line with the DfE guidance.

2. How can I contact my child if they do not have a phone?

If communication is required, it should be directed through reception, as per existing protocols

3. My child has a medical condition and requires a phone.

If there are exceptional circumstances that necessitate your child having access to a phone during the school day, please contact the Academy directly to discuss appropriate arrangements.

4. How will phones be returned at end of school?

Phones will be returned to pupils in the library, supervised by a staff member at the end of the day in a timely manner.

5. If a pupil is doing after-school revision/club, are they permitted to have their phone? If not what's in place to ensure they can collect phone at the end of the club?

Phones will be returned at the end of the Academy day (3.15pm) where they must then remain turned off in pupils' bags until they leave the Academy site.

6. Where are the phones going to be stored to once handed in and who will be responsible for them?

If you choose to send your child to school with a mobile phone, we request that it is clearly identifiable with their name. Phones will be secured in a locked cupboard throughout the school day in a secure area.