



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

APPROVED BY: Governing Body

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REVISION HISTORY

DATE OF REVIEW:	CHANGES MADE:

Soar Valley College - Mobile Device Policy

‘NEVER USED, SEEN OR HEARD’

Soar Valley College recognises that mobile phones (and other electronic devices such as smart watches) are now an important part of most people’s lives and more young people now own and carry such a device. In response to this we feel it is necessary to outline our stance on the use of mobile phones (and other mobile technologies).

Mobile devices risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. By removing mobile devices from the school day, we create a safe space where students are protected from the risks they pose (social media and cyberbullying), as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning expensive devices.

Underpinning our stance, is the belief that as well as drawing clear boundaries, the role of a school extends to include educating all students to understand the social and moral issues associated with owning such technologies. We continue to promote online safety and educate our students on appropriate use of these devices (for example through our PSHE curriculum, ICT curriculum, tutor periods and assemblies) and make it extremely clear that cyber bullying is not tolerated at Soar Valley.

Our stance: NEVER USED, SEEN OR HEARD:

At Soar Valley, students may be in possession of a mobile device on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard. If a student is unable to adhere to this, there are associated consequences and sanctions (see the use of *sanctions*). To ensure it is never used or heard, there is the clear expectation that the device is **SWITCHED OFF**.

The role of staff:

All staff must consistently enforce the school’s policy on the use of mobile devices. We also expect our staff to model the required behaviours. Staff should only use personal devices for work related matters in front of students

The role of students:

All students should be clear on the policy and be aware of the associated consequences and sanctions. To assist them with this, the school will regularly remind students of the main content of this policy, including why we have this stance, alongside fundamental education on how to use their devices responsibly.

On rare occasions (emergencies) some students feel it necessary to contact parents. Where this is the case, students should see their Tutor, Head of Year or Associate Head of Year where they can receive support to contact parents if it is deemed necessary.

The role of parents:

Parents have an important role in supporting the school in enforcing this policy. Parents should encourage students to use their devices appropriately and promote the benefits of phone free environments, specifically not to use their phones whilst at school and ensuring it is switched off.

Parents can support this policy by NOT contacting them directly during the school day. If a parent needs to get a message to their child, they should do so through contacting our school reception.

The use of sanctions:

Alongside promoting the benefits of phone free spaces, Soar Valley has also taken the approach to have a graduated approach to deterring students from using them on school site.

1st Offence:

- If a mobile device is used, seen or heard, staff will confiscate the device and hand it in to main reception at the next convenient time.
- Students may collect the device from an assigned member of the senior leadership team who will be in the Humanities Learning Zone at the end of their school day
- Parents will be notified that their child has had their phone confiscated by a text message

2nd Offence

- If a student has their phone confiscated for a second time within the same academic school year (no matter the length of time since the first offence)
- Students may collect their phone the **following** school day */** (from a member of the senior leadership team in the Humanities Learning Zone).
- Parents will be notified by text that their child has had their phone confiscated for a second time.

3rd offence (or more)

- If a student is required to have their device confiscated on a third occasion (during the same academic year), this will result in a confiscation of the device and it will be returned at the end of the **following** school day */** (from a member of the senior leadership team in the Humanities Learning Zone).
- Parents will be expected to attend a **meeting** where further consequences and sanctions will be agreed. This may include agreed longer confiscations, contracts to hand their device in at the start of the school day, searches and more.

**If the confiscation occurs on a Friday, the student will be allowed to collect it on the same day.*

Students who refuse to hand over their mobile device:

Students who refuse to hand over their device will be placed in 'Reset'. This intervention will initially be used so the student can reflect on their choices, and it is hoped they are then able to make the right decision and hand it over. If the student continues to refuse, they will face further consequences in line with our whole school behaviour policy.

Adaptations and reasonable adjustments:

There may be exceptional circumstances where students are required to use a mobile device whilst on school site. For example, to monitor glucose levels if they are diabetic. Where such circumstances exist, parameters around the use of the device will be agreed from the outset through communication between the school and parents.

Where such flexibility is agreed, the student is still required to adhere to the main policy and not have their device used, seen or heard outside of the agreed parameters.

***There are times where students require access to their phone to allow them to gain access home, for example an electronic bus ticket or their bank card is stored on their device. Where this is the case the school will initially support the student in finding alternative methods home. Where this*

can't be accommodated the school will give the student back their phone with an agree set of rules for the next day. This may include the necessity to hand in their school phone the following day and gain it back an agreed number of days later.

Before and After school:

As part of educating our students on how to use mobile devices responsibly, we have the expectation that students should not be using them inside the school building. We politely request that students wait until they have exited the school buildings before using their device.

Trips:

There may be times where mobile devices are allowed to be used on school trips and other school related events. Where this is the case, the school will clearly communicate this to parents and students.

Whilst Governors give permission for mobile phones to be brought in to the school, responsibility for the device rests with the student and the school will take no financial responsibility for loss or damage, including during the time of confiscation