



Cabot
Learning
Federation



Hans Price
Academy

Mobile phones, smartwatches and electronic devices Policy

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Introduction

Increasingly we are seeing difficulties for young people to manage the “always on” environment created by mobile devices, particularly with access to social media and associated platforms. A large amount of current research, supported by social and emotional wellbeing charities, Ofsted and the Government, all support the idea of restriction of mobile phones and electronic devices within schools.

Electronic devices include, and are not limited to:

- Mobile phones
- Smartwatches
- Headphones / earphones
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Gaming devices

Our Academy has been a mobile-free site since 2019, and this policy outlines the expectations to enable Hans Price Academy to work in partnership with families to minimise distractions, ensure student safety, and maintain a focus on learning.

In summary, our mobile phone policy aims to:

- Safeguard all our children
- Reduce distractions and maintain a focus on learning in the classroom
- Improve social interactions between children
- Support children’s mental health and wellbeing

Mobile Phones, Electronic Devices and Headphones at Hans Price Academy

Whilst we understand that students may wish to carry a phone to and from the Academy, we do encourage parents to keep their child's phone at home if they are not required.

On entry to the Academy, all electronic devices, including phones, smartwatches and electronic devices are to be **switched off and kept in the bottom of bags or in lockers** when in the Academy.

This is for the full Academy Day, including social times.

Phones and electronic devices (including head/earphones) will not be used, seen or heard at any time whilst on the Academy site (including before school starts, lessons, break, lunch and after school clubs).

Parent Communication: Working in Partnership to maintain a “mobile free site”.

- To support us in maintaining a mobile-free site, parents must not phone or message their child directly during the school day. Instead, parents must contact the school office for any urgent matters
- Should a child wish to contact their parent for an urgent matter, they should speak with their key adult or a member of the pastoral team. If appropriate, the Academy will allow them to use a school phone

Confiscation

- Phones, smartwatches or electronic devices will be confiscated if seen or heard and will be locked away in a secure location
- These devices will also be confiscated if the Academy has evidence that the child has been using their phone in school. This includes evidence of communication between the child and their family during the school day
- Confiscation of these devices may take place on the same day, the following day, or the next day the child is in school, whichever is appropriate
- Phones or electronic devices which are confiscated will need to be collected by the student after 3:20pm from the uniform office

- Refusal to hand over phones or electronic devices when seen or heard will be a breach of the Ready to Learn (behaviour) Policy

Persistent breaches of this policy may result in the following:

- The child needing to hand in their phone, smartwatch or electronic device(s) each day to reception or a member of staff (as directed by the Academy)
- The family being required to keep their child's phone, smartwatch or electronic device(s) at home for a set period of time, as directed by the Academy

Safeguarding and misuse of mobile phones

Parents / carers and students should be clear that misuse of mobile phones will not be tolerated. Examples of misuse include and are not limited to:

- Situations where people are filmed or photographed to humiliate, embarrass or intimidate publishing to a wider audience such as on Instagram, Snapchat, or other social media platforms
- Taking photographs or videos of other people without their permission
- Abusive calls, bullying by text, image and email messaging
- The use of a mobile phone for 'sexting' (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)
- Students posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others.
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about staff or other students

Where there is cause for concern staff will search students' phones, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). 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. Academy staff will work in partnership with families to ensure that all footage is deleted from their device and any social media accounts, and to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to safeguard against any repeated incidents.

Responsibility for mobile phones, smartwatches and electronic devices

- Hans Price accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones or other digital equipment
- Confiscated mobile phones and electronic devices will be stored away in a safe place as soon as possible after confiscation