

Thinking Schools Academy Trust

“Transforming Life Chances”



The
Portsmouth Academy

The Portsmouth Academy

“Empowering Young People to Meet the World”

Mobile -Free School Policy

2026 – 2027

Lead Professional: Headteacher

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1. Purpose & Rationale

The Portsmouth Academy is committed to providing a calm, focused and safe learning environment where all students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Evidence and national guidance demonstrate that unrestricted access to mobile phones during the school day can negatively impact learning, behaviour, wellbeing, and safeguarding. For these reasons, The Portsmouth Academy is a mobile-free school.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all students and covers:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Tablets and personal digital devices
- Personal audio equipment, including earphones and headphones

The policy applies from arrival on site until the end of the school day, including:

- Social times
- Break and lunch
- Movement between lessons

3. Mobile-Free School Expectations

3.1 Mobile Device Pouches

- Students may bring a mobile phone or personal audio device to school at their own risk
- On arrival on site, all mobile phones, smart devices, and earphones must be placed into a school-issued locking pouch
- Pouches must remain locked and sealed for the entire school day
- Devices must not be accessed at any point during the school day
- Pouches will be unlocked only at the end of the school day when students leave the site

Mobile Phones on School trips and residential trips

- Students will be expected to put phones in pouches for school trips. The pouches will be unlocked when students return to school. Trip leaders will provide parents with the trip phone number, so parents are able to contact students if there is an emergency.

Residential trips

- Students will be expected to put phones into pouches and will be allowed to access their phones for 30 minutes every day to contact home. This will be in the evening and will be communicated with parents so that they are aware.
- The Trip leader will provide parents with the trip phone number, so parents are able to contact students if there is an emergency.

4. Use of Mobile Devices

- Mobile phones and personal devices will not be used for learning purposes
- The Academy will provide all necessary digital equipment required for curriculum delivery
- Students must not remove, tamper with, damage or attempt to unlock their pouch. If students are found to have done this, they will be issued with a suspension, and parents will be asked to pay for a new phone pouch
- Staff must not use or have their mobile phones visible whilst in the presence of students or in any area accessible to students.

5. Safeguarding, Health, and Emergencies

5.1 Contact During the School Day

- Parents and carers must contact the Academy via main reception for urgent messages
- Students needing to contact home during the school day must do so through pastoral staff

5.2 Medical and SEND Exceptions

- The Academy recognises that a small number of students may require access to a mobile phone for verified medical reasons, such as to monitor or manage a health condition.
- Where a medical need is confirmed, the student will be issued with a designated medical phone pouch by the Academy.

Medical phone pouches:

- Will be clearly identified and issued by the Academy
- Allow access only for the agreed medical purpose
- Must be used strictly in line with the student's individual healthcare plan

- The use of a medical phone pouch does not permit general phone use or access for social or recreational purposes.

All medical exceptions must:

- Be supported by appropriate medical evidence
- Be agreed in advance with the Academy
- Be reviewed regularly to ensure continued necessity

Any other exceptions relating to SEND, safeguarding or pastoral need will be managed through:

- SEND support plans
- Individual risk assessments
- Formal agreements with parents and carers

6. Loss or Damage

- The Academy accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage of personal devices
- Devices are brought onto the school site at the owner's risk
- Deliberate damage to a pouch will be treated as a serious breach of the Behaviour Policy
- We recommend that all students bring to school a sufficiently sized bag to keep the pouch in during the day

7. Behaviour and Consequences

Failure to follow this policy will result in sanctions in line with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Refusal to place a device in a pouch
- Accessing a device during the school day
- Tampering with or damaging a pouch
- Bringing undeclared additional devices or earphones

Repeated or serious breaches may result in:

- Escalating sanctions
- Confiscation procedures
- Parental meetings
- Further disciplinary action

8. Equality and Inclusion

The Academy is committed to applying this policy fairly and consistently, ensuring reasonable adjustments are made where required to meet individual student needs.

9. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be:

- Monitored by senior leaders
- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with safeguarding guidance and best practice