



Mobile Phone Policy

February 2026

Approved by	Date	Review Schedule	Date of next review
Trust Board	February 2026	Annual	February 2027

Saint Paul teaches, 'the body is not made up of one part but of many.'

Chester Diocesan Learning Trust recognises and nurtures the unique gifts, skills and talents within our whole community.

We will empower adults and children to grow in character and mind, shaping a better future.

Shaping better futures; one body, many parts.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the Trust's overarching position on the use of mobile phones and personal smart devices across all schools within the Trust. It reflects the Department for Education's non-statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools and is intended to support safe, calm and productive learning environments. The policy provides a clear Trust-wide framework while recognising that individual schools are best placed to determine the most appropriate approach for their own communities. Schools are expected to take this policy into account when developing, reviewing and implementing their local arrangements.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils and students on roll at Trust schools. It also applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors when on school premises or engaged in school activities. For the purposes of this policy, mobile phones include any personal device capable of communication, recording, internet access or social media use, including smartphones and smartwatches.

3. Trust Position

The Trust supports the Department for Education's expectation that schools should aim to restrict the use of mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtimes. The Trust recognises, however, that schools operate in different contexts and therefore allows each school to determine its own approach to managing mobile phone use. Each school must ensure that its approach is clearly defined, evidence-informed, and demonstrably supports pupils' learning, behaviour, safeguarding and wellbeing. Where a school adopts an approach that differs from a fully phone-free environment, the rationale for this decision must be clearly articulated and approved through local governance.

4. Principles for School-Level Policies

Each school within the Trust must have a clearly written mobile phone policy or a clearly defined section within its behaviour policy. This policy should set out expectations for pupils and staff, including when and where mobile phones may or may not be used, how devices should be stored during the school day, and how breaches of the policy will be managed. Schools must ensure that their approach takes account of individual needs, including reasonable adjustments for pupils with special educational needs, disabilities or medical requirements. Policies should be communicated clearly to pupils, parents and staff and should be applied consistently and fairly.

5. Expectations of Staff

All staff are expected to support and consistently enforce the school's mobile phone policy. Staff should model appropriate professional behaviour by limiting personal mobile phone use during the school day and avoiding use in front of pupils except where required for professional purposes.

Senior leaders should ensure that staff are trained and supported to apply the policy confidently and appropriately, including understanding their powers in relation to confiscation where this is used as a sanction.

6. Engagement with Parents and Carers

Schools should ensure that parents and carers understand the school's approach to mobile phones and the reasons underpinning it. Clear communication should be provided about how the policy supports pupils' learning, behaviour and wellbeing. Schools must also make clear how parents can contact their child during the school day where necessary, for example through the school office, so that reliance on personal mobile phones is minimised.

7. Monitoring and Review

Individual schools are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of their mobile phone arrangements and reviewing their policies regularly as part of their wider behaviour and safeguarding frameworks. The Trust will maintain oversight of mobile phone arrangements across its schools and will review this Trust-wide policy periodically to ensure continued alignment with Department for Education guidance, inspection expectations and emerging best practice.