

St Paul's Academy Mobile Devices & Social Networking Policy

St Paul's Academy has always been prepared to evolve its rules to reflect developments in modern society. We have been focusing on the way devices are used, rather than the nature of the device itself.

All devices must be switched off [not just on silent] and in the school bag when students are on site. The only circumstances in which they can be used is under the direction of a teacher for educational purposes. Headphones are not to be worn on the campus, unless directed by a teacher. If they are worn, we reserve the right to take them away, together with any device they are attached to.

Students are not allowed to use phones or computers to contact people outside school, including parents/carers, during school time. In an urgent situation, where a child feels they need to make contact, they should see their Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will make a decision & the necessary arrangements.

If parents/carers need to contact their child, while they are on the school site, they should do this via Reception & not by calling or texting the student's phone. If a device is used in School without permission, we reserve the right to take it away & keep it in line with Academy Policy.

Updated Procedures for 2023-2024

Because we remain committed in caring for the wellbeing and safety of our students, we have amended our mobile phone policy to help support our families in maintaining contact before and after school with their child whilst also ensuring we provide a safe and distraction free learning environment. As such, if a student is found to have their device on or if they are seen to be using their device by a member of staff, their phone will be confiscated and placed in the safe in Reception. **Parents and carers will be contacted on the day of confiscation and will be invited to collect the device from Reception the following day. Reception is manned between the hours of 8am-4pm and there must be a mutually agreed collection**

time. *Students who repeatedly fail to adhere to this rule may risk losing the right to have a device onsite.*

Parents/Carers are not permitted to call the Academy, demanding the return of the device or arrive at Reception insisting on its return.

Do remember that some devices are extremely costly to replace & children are expected to look after them properly, never leaving them unguarded & always securing them in the lockers provided for PE lessons. We take no responsibility for the loss of devices brought into school. Any student who uses mobile or Internet technology, inside or outside of school, to cause distress to others or put their safety at risk may face suspension. We will enforce this rigorously because of the potentially very serious consequences of such actions & the huge amount of valuable school time used up investigating this offence. Any student who distributes illegal or sexually explicit material, inside or outside of school, will be externally excluded & could face arrest & criminal charges.