

Ebor Academy Trust: Mobile Phone Guidance for Schools

1. A Phone-Free Environment

The DfE expects schools to implement policies that prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. Ebor Academy Trust schools operate on a basis whereby all of our schools are safe, secure and suitable environments to prioritise educational outcomes and mental wellness, limiting the usage of personal technology is something we continue to promote. This applies to mobile phones and all "smart technology" with similar functionality, such as smartwatches capable of messaging or recording.

2. Management & Storage

To maintain a consistent and secure environment, schools should implement the following procedures:

- Morning Collection: All mobile phones must be handed to class teaching staff or office staff immediately upon arrival.
- Secure Storage: Devices must be kept in a secure, designated location (e.g., lockers or a central safe point) inaccessible to pupils.
- End-of-Day Return: Phones are returned to pupils only at the conclusion of the school day.
- The school/Trust is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of devices brought onto premises. High value devices should be insured as part of the owners contents insurance.

3. Safeguarding & Inclusion Exceptions

Reasonable adjustments will be made for specific circumstances, assessed on a case-by-case basis:

- Commuting: While pupils may carry a phone for safety during their commute to and from school, they are prohibited from use on school premises.
- Medical Needs: Pupils requiring devices for health monitoring, such as diabetes management. This would need to be supported by evidence from a medical professional supporting the child.
- Young Carers: Pupils with significant responsibilities who must be contactable for emergencies.

4. Sanctions

Breaches will be managed under the school's Behaviour Policy: Confiscation: Staff may confiscate any phone seen or heard. The Headteacher determines the duration of the confiscation.

5. Communication with Parents

- This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school.
- Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.