

Portable Digital Devices Policy
Blackpool Aspire Academy
Reviewed April 2021



Mobile phones and other Portable Digital Devices will not be used by students on the Aspire Academy site.

- Portable digital devices, including mobile phones and/or personal headphones will not be used by students in any part of the Academy.
- If parents/carers need to make emergency contact with students during the day, this should only be done by contacting the Academy Reception (01253 353155).
- If portable digital devices, including mobile phones and/or personal headphones are visible they will be confiscated until the end of the Academy day to be collected from Student Services by the student owner following the first breach of this rule and by a parent/carer thereafter.
- If these rules are and/or confiscation requests are not complied with, sanctions will be escalated
- The Academy will accept no responsibility for mobile phones, headphones, or any other device lost, confiscated or stolen or damaged in any way.
- Academy staff have a legal right to search a device for electronic content if they suspect that it has been used to cause harm, break Academy rules or disrupt learning.
- Staff have the right to delete, have removed or pass to the Police data or files. Where a criminal offence is suspected the Police will be informed.
- Common sense adherence to this rule will avoid the need for confiscation

Pictures, Filming and Audio Recording

- Aspire Academy explicitly forbids students to use Portable Digital Devices to take, store and/or share pictures, video or audio record classes, classrooms, teachers or other students unless as an agreed and planned aspect of learning for which appropriate permission has been secured. Child Protection legislation prohibits the taking of photo images without parental or personal permission.
- In the event of students not complying with these rules or Academy policy, Portable Digital Devices may be confiscated on a temporary or permanent basis. Such Portable Digital Devices will remain the property of the student, but will not be released until parents have been notified and any offending material removed.
- Inappropriate images may be removed by the Academy or the individual owner if these images are not deemed acceptable or are inappropriate. It will be the Academy's decision on what is inappropriate or unacceptable.
- It is illegal to store on an electronic device or share with others images and/or content which is deemed offensive, racist, homophobic, of a sexually explicit nature or which incites violence. All such incidents will be reported to the Police.

Social Networking

- Students are reminded that all members of the Academy community should treat each other with respect within and outside the Academy including when using electronic communication and social networking.
- As with all types of bullying, the Academy will address incidents of cyber bullying between members of the Academy community seriously even where this occurs beyond the Academy premises. In such cases, parents, the Police and/or other relevant agencies will be informed.