



ENDEAVOUR
LEARNING TRUST

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



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***Throughout this document we have used the term ‘families’ to refer to our pupils’ parents, carers or those that hold parental responsibility (PR)’, including the Corporate Parent for those to whom that applies*.**

Throughout this policy the term mobile phones are used. This includes similar devices, including smart watches, with equivalent functionality.

1. Introduction

Endeavour Learning Trust believes that all members of our communities have the right to a safe and positive educational environment where they can learn and thrive free from disruption, violence, discrimination, bullying and abuse. Every member of our Trust has a responsibility to practice in a way which facilitates this, in line with our Trust values:

Belonging, People Centred, Togetherness, Transformational, Individuality

This policy aims to ensure that a consistent, Trust-wide approach to ensure all Endeavour Learning Trust Schools for mobile phones in line with DfE guidance on Mobile Phone Use.

All Trust schools operate as mobile phone free environments at all times, including breaktimes, lunchtimes and times in-between lessons, in order to:

- Support pupils in accessing learning free from distraction and disruption
- Safeguard pupils and support their wellbeing
- Promote social development and opportunities for enrichment
- Support development of responsible digital habits

This policy should be read alongside the Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

2. Legal framework

This policy has been written in line with the following legislation and guidance:

- Mobile phones in schools - DfE guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE guidance
- Working Together to Safeguard Children – DfE guidance
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation – DfE guidance
- Behaviour in Schools – DfE guidance
- European Convention of Rights of the Child
- Education Act 1996
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 1989/04

3. Expectations for pupil mobile phone use (including similar devices)

All Trust schools are mobile phone free environments. This means that pupils should not have access to mobile phones during the school day, including:

- Before formal lessons begin and tutor time
- During any unstructured time
- During lesson change over when pupils are moving between lessons

Each individual Trust school is responsible for ensuring pupils do not have access to mobiles phones throughout the day. This might include, but is not limited to:

- Ensuring phones are switched off and out of sight
- School based storage following being handed in
- Individual pupil 'Yonder' pouches

Sixth form pupils

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises that as children grow and mature, developing responsible habits for mobile phone use will be important. To support pupils in developing responsible digital habits, where pupils are accessing the sixth form in a Trust school, pupils may be granted access to using mobile phones at unstructured times in designated areas, away from younger pupils, as outlined by the Headteacher.

Mobile phone use outside of the school day

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises that there will be times when pupils are accessing activities outside of the school day, for example, residential school trips, enrichment activities out of school hours and summer schools.

It is the responsibility of the individual school to clearly outline and communicate to staff, pupils and their families, the expectations around mobile phone use during these times.

Schools should ensure that pupils' experience during these times is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones. Schools will consider their responsibilities to ensure pupils are appropriately safeguarded during these times, balancing where families feel mobile devices support safety of pupils for devices on the way to and from any school based activity, with clear measures in place and ensure that pupils understand mechanisms to report any concerns that might arise from mobile phone use during these times.

Pupils accessing alternative provision

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises that pupils accessing alternative provision remain the responsibility of the Trust school where they are on roll and that they can be at increased risk for specific safeguarding issues, including exploitation and serious violence.

Where pupils are attending alternative provision, schools will incorporate the provisions policy on mobile phone use into the safeguarding quality assurance.

Schools will work with pupils, families and provisions to ensure that there are clear policies on mobile phones that are in line with guidance on safeguarding.

4. Adaption and reasonable adjustments

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Children and Families Act 2014 to ensure that pupils with protected characteristics are not disadvantaged as a result of any policy and children with medical conditions are supported in line with their needs.

Supporting pupils with medical conditions:

Where a pupil requires access to a mobile phone for support with a medical condition, for example to effectively and safely manage diabetes through use of a blood sugar monitoring function, school will support the pupil through a clearly defined plan, shared with relevant staff, the pupil and their family, including mobile phone use where required. Pupils with medical conditions will be supported on an individual basis in line with Trust policy and reasonable adjustments will be made in line with their needs.

Supporting children with SEND:

Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with identified special educational needs and/or disabilities where it is deemed necessary for them to have access to their mobile phone in order to support them with their needs. This will be clearly communicated to relevant staff, the pupil and their family and included on their learning plans.

Young carers:

Pupils that are identified as a young carer and require access to their mobile phones for caring responsibilities throughout the school day will be supported by the school's young carer lead. This will include a plan of support being agreed between school and the pupil and their family and shared with relevant staff.

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises there may be other extenuating circumstances that have not been outlined in this policy but mean that pupils may require access to their mobile phone throughout the school day. All situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis, in line with our Trust values, DfE guidance and responsibilities under law. Allowing flexibility does not mean that pupils with reasonable adjustments are exempt from all aspects of this policy and individual agreements should be followed and regularly reviewed where required.

5. Consequences for policy breaches

Endeavour Learning Trust believes in working preventatively, embedding and regularly communicating clear and consistent expectations and routines, creating a sense of safety, stability and predictability.

We support our pupils through a combination of education, recognition, consequences and curious exploration of a pupil's live experience and any underlying cause or need.

Pupils will be taught about the benefits of a mobile phone free environment and the risks associated with mobile phone use, including bullying, loss of focus and disruption. Pupils will be regularly reminded of this policy and their responsibilities in fulfilling the expectations set out for them.

If a pupil breaches this policy, school staff will respond in line with the Trust Behaviour Policy and associated consequences. Consequences can include sanctions. Where pupils have breached this policy, including where a phone is heard in a pupil's bag, staff should consider a proportionate response, including considering information known about the pupil's individual circumstances, related DfE guidance and Trust policies. Trust schools may

confiscate mobile phones for a period of time they feel proportionate and are protected in law from liability for loss and damage, where they have acted lawfully.

6. The role of staff and staff use of mobile phones

Endeavour Learning Trust recognises the powerful role adults in schools play in pupils lives, specifically their role in modelling acceptable and appropriate behaviour and maintaining expectations outlined in Trust policies to ensure children access safe environments where they can learn.

Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. Phones should be kept out of sight of pupils, unless being used for a specific purpose, for example multi-factor authentication for access to school systems.

Staff working in EYFS provision must ensure mobile phones and personal electronic devices are stored securely in areas where children do not have access. All personal electronic devices, including smart watches with cameras, are strictly prohibited from areas where children access in EYFS provision.

All electronic devices, including school devices, are strictly prohibited from areas where personal/intimate care takes place in all settings. All concerns over potential mis-use of any electronic devices, including school devices and use or presence of a device in areas where personal/intimate care takes place, should be immediately reported to the Head or DSL.

7. Family and visitor expectations

Endeavour Learning Trust prioritises developing and maintaining strong relationships with our pupils and their families. We acknowledge that there may be very occasional but significant events that occur where families seek to contact their child/ren during the school day, most likely to be in the event of an emergency. Endeavour Learning Trust requests that all communication with pupils is directed through the main school office during the school day, with exception to where reasonable adjustments have been made in line with the circumstances outlined in this policy.

Endeavour Learning Trust requests that visitors respect that all Trust schools are phone free environments and where access to mobile phones is required advice is sought from site-specific school staff.

Document Control

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