THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL GROUP LTD

Pupil Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy

Author:	HB
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Note: This policy has been developed and reviewed by The Alternative School Group Limited using internal expertise, professional judgement, current statutory guidance and appropriate digital tools. Final approval and responsibility for the policy rests with The Alternative School Group Limited.

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1. Purpose and Scope

The school is a mobile-phone-free environment. This policy applies to all registered pupils at all The Alternative School Group Ltd school sites, including movement between lessons, break-times, lunchtimes, and supervised activities. EYFS children attending the nursery are subject to the nursery arrangements described below.

2. Statutory Basis

Section 550C of the Education Act 1996, inserted by section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, requires the proprietor of an independent school to have regard to the DfE statutory guidance Mobile phones in schools (29 June 2026; schools to follow from 1 September 2026). The school also has regard to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, safeguarding requirements, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Equality Act 2010 and the current EYFS statutory framework where applicable. Having regard to guidance means considering it conscientiously.

3. Pupil Rule and Secure Storage **(are we allowing pupils to bring them into school and rule is MUST be handed in, except in exceptional circumstances?) Recent article about buses and use of phone for tickets?)**

Pupils must not bring personal mobile phones**??**, communication-enabled watches, smart glasses or equivalent devices to school except where an individual exception has been approved. An approved device must be switched off before entry and handed to the School Business Manager or designated member of staff at the start of the pupil's timetabled session. The device is logged, stored securely and returned at the end of that session. Where an approved medical or assistive function requires the device to remain on or accessible, the written individual plan overrides the switch-off and hand-in rules to the extent necessary.

4. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The Headteacher or delegated senior leader considers requests individually, including medical monitoring, disability/SEND, assistive technology, young carers, independent travel, and specific off-site arrangements. Equality Act reasonable adjustments and health needs must be considered; a medically necessary device must not be removed simply for convenience. Record the reason, device, agreed times, supervision, storage, review date and responsible staff. Obtain parent/carer agreement where appropriate. Minimise sensitive medical information on the form.

5. Communication and Visits

Parents and carers contact the school office in the first instance; pupils ask staff to contact home. During trips, residentials and off-site activities the same default restriction applies unless a trip-specific risk assessment and written exception authorise use. School-provided educational devices are governed by separate acceptable-use and safeguarding controls.

6. Breaches and Confiscation

Staff respond proportionately under the Relationships, Responsibility and Community Policy, taking account of age, SEND, disability, medical needs and safeguarding. An unauthorised device may be collected and stored securely with a record of who received and returned it. Do not inspect content routinely; escalate suspected harmful or illegal content to the DSL and follow applicable guidance.

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7. Nursery / EYFS Children

Children attending nursery should not bring personal mobile or connected devices into the setting, except an individually authorised medical or assistive device. Nursery staff must use the separate Staff Mobile Phone and Work Device Policy, including its specific EYFS requirements. The nursery manager will ensure parent and visitor information, device storage, photography procedures and safeguarding practice are appropriate for young children.

8. Responsibilities and Monitoring

This policy should be read with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Relationships, Responsibility and Community Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, data protection and acceptable use policies, and relevant confiscation procedures. The proprietor is accountable for implementation and review. The Headteacher communicates rules to pupils, parents and staff; designated staff manage storage and exception records; the DSL oversees safeguarding incidents. Review incidents, pupil and parent feedback, exceptions and practice at least annually.

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Appendix A: Pupil Exceptional Use Authorisation

Pupil: _____ Campus: _____

Parent/Carer: _____ Date: _____

Reason (Medical / SEND / Travel / Caring / Trip / (Other – please state): _____

Device and required function: _____

Permitted access, location, times and supervision: _____

Storage/charging arrangements: _____

Start and review dates: _____

Parent/carer signature: _____ Pupil signature (if appropriate): _____

Headteacher Name and Signature: _____

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Appendix B: Pupil Acceptable Use Acknowledgement

I will only use an authorised device for the purpose, times and locations agreed in my exception plan. I will not record others, use social media or messaging, or share personal information without school permission. I will follow reasonable staff instructions and report worrying messages or content.

Pupil Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____ Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

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