Chellaston Academy Mobile Phone & Smart Technology Policy

Department:	Education
Policy Owner:	Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher of Inclusion
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Chellaston Academy Mobile Phone & Smart Technology Policy

Target Audience: All Students, Staff, Parents, and Carers

Status: Active Policy

Core Policy Expectation

Chellaston Academy is a Smart devices-free zone. Mobile phones and personal smart technology/devices must not be accessible to students at any point during the school day. This rule applies immediately upon entering the school site through either gate adjacent to Reception.

1. Scope of the Policy

This policy covers all personal electronic items capable of communication, recording, or internet access, including but not limited to:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watches, Galaxy Watches)
- Devices capable of sending or receiving messages, calls, or notifications
- Devices capable of internet access or social media browsing
- Devices capable of taking photos, or recording video or audio
- Wireless earphones and similar audio accessories used alongside a personal device

Note: Students are permitted to wear traditional, non-smart watches.

2. Expectations for Students

- **Journey to School:** Students may carry a phone for safety during their commute.
- **During the School Day:** Upon arrival at the school gates, mobile phones must be switched off and stored at the bottom of the student's bag. Devices must remain turned off and out of sight until the end of the school day.
- **Smartwatches:** Smartwatches must be switched off or placed into a non-communicative offline mode for the entire duration of the school day. Using a smartwatch to view notifications, read messages, or communicate while a phone is in a bag is a direct breach of this policy.

3. Confiscation & Sanctions

If a student uses, displays, or accesses a smartphone or smart device on school grounds:

- **Immediate Confiscation:** The device will be confiscated on the spot by staff.
- **Return Process:** Confiscated devices will **not** be returned directly to students. A parent or carer must attend the Academy in person to collect the item. Collection is available between **3:00 PM and 4:00 PM** on the day of confiscation, or at an alternative time arranged with the relevant Deputy Head of Year or Head of Year.
- **Escalation:** Repeated infractions will lead to escalated formal sanctions.
- **Refusal to Comply:** Any student who refuses to hand over a device when instructed by staff will receive an **immediate suspension**. This expectation is enforced consistently and without exception.

4. Recommendations for Parents & Carers

To help students meet these expectations, we strongly encourage families to consider:

- **Storage Pouches:** Purchasing a protective pouch or dedicated case to store the phone at the bottom of the bag, removing the temptation to check it.
- **Basic Feature Phones ("Brick Phones"):** Providing a simple, non-internet-enabled phone for essential morning and evening communication without the distractions of a smartphone.

5. Rationale & Educational Benefits

In alignment with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, maintaining a smart device-free environment directly fosters:

- Greater concentration and focus during learning time
- Stronger face-to-face social connections and communication skills
- Improved student behaviour and a calmer overall campus environment
- Reduced risks of online conflict, peer pressure, and unauthorized media recording during school hours

6. Parent-Student Communication During the Day

- **Urgent Messages from Home:** Parents and carers needing to reach their child urgently must contact **Academy Reception**. Staff will ensure essential messages are relayed promptly.
- **Outbound Student Contact:** If a student needs to contact home during school hours, they must speak with a staff member to use official Academy communication lines.

7. Individual Circumstances & Reasonable Adjustments

We recognize that exceptions may be necessary for specific medical needs, SEND requirements, safeguarding protocols, or exceptional circumstances. The Academy will work collaboratively with families to establish formal, tailored adjustments where appropriate.