



Name of policy	Reviewed by	Signed	Date reviewed	Date for next review
Student Mobile Phone	Jade Sloan		5/5/26	May 2027

Student Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction and Purpose

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance on prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools, Blackbird Creative Arts Ltd restricts the use of personal devices during the educational day. This ensures a distraction-free learning environment, protects students from online harms, and fosters positive face-to-face social interactions.

However, as an Alternative Provision, we recognise that many of our students experience high levels of anxiety. For some, having a brief, controlled check-in with their device provides essential emotional regulation. This policy balances the DfE's strict guidelines with the specific safeguarding and wellbeing needs of our vulnerable learners.

2. The Core Rule: Handing in Devices

Morning Hand-In: Upon arrival and registration, all student mobile phones must be handed in to staff by **9:30 am**.

Secure Storage: Phones will be turned off (or placed on silent) and stored securely in a locked staff area or designated secure box.

End of Day: Phones will be officially handed back to students at the end of the provision day at **3:00 pm**.

3. Designated Phone Times (Anxiety & Wellbeing Checks)

To support students with high anxiety, we facilitate strictly controlled "phone breaks." Students are permitted to use their phones *only* during the following designated times, and *only* in designated communal areas:

Morning Break: 11:00 am – 11:15 am

Lunch Break: Students are allowed exactly **15 minutes** of phone time during the lunch period (12:15 pm – 1:00 pm).

The Timer System:

During the lunch period, staff will set a physical 15-minute timer when devices are handed out. Once the timer sounds, all phones must be immediately handed back to staff for secure storage until 3:00 pm.

4. Acceptable Use During Permitted Times

When students are using their phones during the permitted break times, they must still adhere to our **Online Safety and Media Policy** and our **Behaviour Policy**.

Students must not take photographs or videos of other students or staff.

Students must not use their phones to access harmful content, engage in cyberbullying, or view inappropriate material.

If a student is suspected of misusing their phone during a break, staff reserve the right to confiscate the device for the remainder of the day, and parents/carers will be informed.

5. Refusal and Non-Compliance

Our timer system and phone breaks rely on mutual trust and respect. If a student refuses to hand their phone in at 9:30 am, or refuses to hand it back after the 15-minute lunch timer:

Staff will use de-escalation techniques and remind the student of the policy.

If the student continues to refuse, the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Persistent refusal to comply with the mobile phone policy will result in a meeting with the student's parents/carers and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) informing the referring school, as this disrupts the learning environment.

6. Emergency Contact

Parents and carers must not contact their children directly on their mobile phones during the provision hours (9:30 am – 3:00 pm). If a parent/carer needs to get an urgent message to their child in an emergency, they must call the Blackbird Creative Arts main phone line (07739 013819). Staff will ensure the message is passed on immediately and support the student appropriately.

7. Liability

Students bring their mobile phones to Blackbird Creative Arts at their own risk. While we will store handed-in phones securely, Blackbird Creative Arts Ltd accepts no liability for the loss, theft, or damage of any personal electronic devices brought onto the premises.