

# St Pauls Academy Mobile Devices & Social Networking Policy

St Paul's Academy has always been prepared to evolve its rules to reflect developments in modern society. We have been focusing on the way devices are used, rather than the nature of the device itself.

## Updated Procedures

- All devices<sup>1</sup> must be switched off (not just on silent) *and in the school bag* when students are on site. The only circumstances in which they can be used is under the direction of a teacher for educational purposes.
- Headphones are not to be worn on the campus, unless directed by a teacher. If they are worn, we reserve the right to take them away, together with any device they are attached to & keep them in a secure place for 2 weeks; it will then be returned by a Head of Learning Zone or RSL.
- Students are not allowed to use phones or computers to contact people outside school, including parents/carers, during school time. In an urgent situation, where a child feels they need to make contact, they should see a Head of Learning Zone or RSL (Pastoral Leader) who will make a decision & the necessary arrangements.
- If parents/carers need to contact their child, while they are on the school site, they should do this via Reception & not by calling or texting the student's phone.
- If a device is used in School without permission, we reserve the right to take it away & keep it in a secure place for 2 weeks; this is non-negotiable. After this period, it will be returned by a Head of Learning Zone or RSL. A register of confiscated items is kept in the Academy. **Parents/Carers are not permitted to call the Academy, demanding the return of the device or arrive at Reception insisting on its return.**
- If it is used in a way which creates problems for the School Community, there will be an additional sanction of Internal or External Exclusion.
- No specific type of device is explicitly "banned" any longer. However, some devices are extremely costly to replace & children are expected to look after them properly, never leaving them unguarded & always securing them in the lockers provided for PE lessons. We take no responsibility for the loss of devices brought into school.
- Any student who uses mobile or Internet technology, **inside or outside of school**, to cause distress to others or put their safety at risk can expect an External Exclusion. We will enforce this rigorously because of the potentially very serious consequences of such actions & the huge amount of valuable school time used up investigating this offence.
- Any student who distributes illegal or sexually explicit material, **inside or outside of school**, will be externally excluded & could face arrest & criminal charges.

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<sup>1</sup> Devices refers to any mobile device, phones or smart watches, which may connect to another device