



SWRA Behaviour Policy Amendment regarding the use of Mobile Phones and Smart technology – March 2026

Sir William Robertson Academy is a phone-free environment. The use of mobile phones (including smart/watch/podphonic technology) is strictly prohibited for our students throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

SWRA Staff only use mobile phones in areas specifically designated for the exclusive use of Staff - except when required for emergency, medical or safeguarding purposes.

SWRA Sixth Form Students only use mobile phones in areas specifically designated for the exclusive use of Sixth Form Students. Where Sixth Form students choose to work in other areas including classrooms using their own devices, these devices must not be mobile phones.

SWRA Students are not permitted to use a mobile phone onsite during the school day between 8.20 am when our gates open until 3.15 pm when our buses arrive. At the end of the school day, we recognise that students may contact parents or use Smart technology (including electronic bus tickets) under staff direction to help them get home from our rural location. We strictly expect that this is never used for any reason during the entirety of our school day.

These expectations apply also when students are learning onsite during holidays and weekends for events such as revision sessions, rehearsals and sports fixtures. The school recognises that mobile phone use may be necessary following such events to support students' journeys home but maintains the expectation of a phone free learning environment for activities onsite even outside the times of the school day.

Exceptional circumstances are recognised by SWRA for students for whom it is necessary to carry devices due to the nature of a disability or where a medical condition (such as diabetes) is supported through the monitoring functions provided by mobile phones. Exceptions are recognised additionally for some specific circumstances of safeguarding (including specific Young Carers). Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Head of Year or the SENDCo to discuss specific circumstances.

Students are welcome and encouraged to contact their parents through the use of the telephone handsets located at the student window in our school office. Parents who need to contact students during the school day may do so through the school office – our office staff are experienced and reliable in relaying messages and facilitating contact.

Staff who observe or are made aware of student use of mobile phones will confiscate the device which will be returned to the student only at the end of the school day. Students who use mobile phones during the school day may be issued with a lunchtime detention. Students who do not comply with confiscation will remain in Reflection and may be subject to a search by school staff in line with our policy on all prohibited items. Students who repeatedly use mobile phones should be aware that their devices will only be returned to their parents directly.



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Students are not permitted to use mobile phones on trips which take place across the school day when they are subject to the same expectations as classroom learning and like our school site would only be used under staff direction to arrange travel home. Expectations regarding the use of mobile phones on residential trips or trips outside of the normal school day will be clearly communicated to students and parents by the trip leader ahead of the trip.

Through the delivery of SWRA's PSHE programme our students are taught the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly. These risks can include a loss of focus in lessons, classroom disruption and an increase in bullying. As a school, SWRA values our mobile phone-free environment as an element of our safe culture of learning.



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