

Southfields Academy Mobile Phone/Smart Device Policy- September 2026

KS3 & KS4 Students

Under Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the Department for Education's (DFE)

"Mobile Phones in Schools" guidance carries full legal statutory weight. **This means that these changes are set in law and we are obliged to enforce them**

Section 36, Children's Wellbeing and schools act
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/21/section/36/enacted>

Our stance on smart devices – *this covers smartphones, smart watches and all smart devices. For every mention of smart phones please assume this covers all smart devices.*

The Academy does not encourage or endorse students owning a smartphone*. This stance is supported by extensive educational and psychological research proving the severe negative impacts of continuous smartphone and social media access on adolescent mental health, emotional wellbeing, and classroom focus.

Smartphone rules and sanctions

- Smartphones are strictly prohibited on Academy premises at all times. This includes; immediately on entry to the academy site in the morning, during lessons, registration, break times, lunchtimes, the transitions between classes, and after the school day whilst on site.*
- If a student is seen with a smartphone on the Academy site, the device will be immediately confiscated, logged, and securely locked away. The phone will not be returned to the student.
- A parent or carer must come to the Academy reception to collect the device between the hours of 3.45pm and 4.00pm.
- If a student is found with a smartphone on Academy premises on any additional occasion, the device may be confiscated and retained by the Academy for the remainder of the current half-term.
- No student will be able to use a smartphone to make a purchase in the canteen and this will include all 6th Form students. Food purchases can be made in one of the following ways:
 - Via a child's own physical bank card
 - Via the MCAS login where money can be placed on the student MCAS account away from the school premises.

Non- smart phones ("Brick" phones)

We understand that some parents prefer their children to carry a basic phone for safety during their commute to and from school. While allowed for travel, these devices must remain turned off and kept out of sight inside bags for the duration of the school day.

If a student is seen using a basic, non-smart phone (a "brick" phone) anywhere on the Academy site, it will be confiscated and locked away until the end of the school day.

The student may collect the phone from the General Office at the end of the day.

*Exceptions apply when the smartphone is needed for a specific medical reason agreed in advance by the Academy -

KS5 (Sixth Form) Students

Sixth Form students are only permitted to use their mobile phones within designated Sixth Form areas (common and study rooms) and in lessons as directed by their teacher.

Students are not allowed to use their phones in any areas of the Academy where younger students may be present; this includes the playground, corridors, the canteen, and all outdoor spaces. If a Sixth Form student is seen with a phone in a restricted area, it will be confiscated, logged, and locked away. If a student is seen with a smartphone outside the designated Sixth Form areas, the device will be immediately confiscated, logged, and securely locked away in the General Office. The phone will not be returned to the student. A parent or carer must come to the Academy to collect the device.

If a student is found with a smartphone on Academy premises on subsequent occasions, the device will be confiscated and retained by the Academy for the remainder of the current half-term.