



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you of the academy's existing expectations regarding mobile phones and electronic devices. This policy has been in place for some time; however, due to recent national media attention and guidance published this week by the Department for Education and Ofsted, we feel it is important to restate our position clearly.

The Department for Education has confirmed that schools are fully entitled to limit or ban the use of mobile phones during the academy day, provided expectations and sanctions are made clear to staff, students and parents. Ofsted has also reinforced the importance of strong, consistent approaches to behaviour and safeguarding, including the management of mobile phone use.

## Our expectations

- Students may bring a mobile phone or electronic device to the academy **at their own risk**. The academy cannot accept liability for loss or damage.
- Phones and electronic devices must be **switched off and kept in bags** at all times while on the academy site (from the student gates onwards), **between 8.00am and 3.00pm**, including during extra-curricular activities.
- Devices may only be used when **explicitly instructed by a member of staff** for educational purposes.
- All use must comply with our **Online Safety Policy**.

## Confiscation and sanctions (Our policy can be found on the academy website)

Authorised members of staff may search for and confiscate electronic devices if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a device:

- poses a risk to staff or students
- is a banned item under academy rules
- may be evidence relating to an offence

If a student is seen using or in possession of a device during the academy day, the following sanctions will apply:

- **First offence:** Device confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day
- **Second offence:** Device confiscated; parent/carer required to collect it from reception
- **Third offence:** Device handed in daily for a minimum of five academy days
- **Further offences:** Parents/carers invited into the academy to discuss ongoing concerns

Refusal to hand over a device will result in the student being placed in ABE until the issue is resolved.

## Before and after school

Students may only use their phones once they are off the academy site, beyond the student gates.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. Our aim is to maintain a calm, focused and safe learning environment for all students.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss M Heppell**

Principal - Atlantic Academy Portland

