Rise Multi Academy Trust: Mobile Phone in Schools Policy

Rise
Flourish & Succeed

Date of Policy: August 2026

Review Date: August 2027

Approved by Rise Chair of Board: November 2026

Signed: 

1. Policy Statement

At Rise Multi Academy Trust, our vision is "enabling all to flourish and succeed." We believe every child deserves a safe, inclusive and purposeful learning environment where they can realise their potential and develop the knowledge, skills and character needed for future success.

This policy reflects our core beliefs:

- **Success** - creating the conditions for excellent learning and achievement.
- **Ambition** - maintaining high expectations for behaviour, conduct and focus.
- **Grace** - promoting positive relationships, respect and responsible decision-making.
- **Equity** - ensuring all pupils have equal access to learning and are protected from distractions and potential harms associated with mobile technology.

In line with Department for Education statutory guidance, Rise Multi Academy Trust schools will operate as mobile phone-free environments by default, ensuring that learning, wellbeing and personal development remain at the heart of the school day.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Maximise learning time and pupil engagement.
- Create calm, focused and positive school environments.
- Protect pupils from cyberbullying, online risks and inappropriate content.
- Promote healthy social interaction and emotional wellbeing.
- Safeguard pupils and staff from unauthorised photography, video and audio recording.
- Ensure a consistent approach across all Rise schools.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils attending Rise Multi Academy Trust schools and covers:

- Mobile phones.
- Smartphones.
- Smart watches capable of communication, recording or internet access.
- Earbuds and wearable devices with messaging or communication functions.
- Any personal smart technology with functionality similar to a mobile phone, including AI eye wear.

For the purposes of this policy, the term **"mobile phone"** should be taken to include a wide range of personal communication and connected devices, including smartphones, smartwatches, wearable technology, AI-enabled devices, tablets, and any similar technology capable of

communication, recording, internet access, or the use of artificial intelligence applications.

4. Our Trust Principles

Through our approach to mobile phones and smart devices, we seek to model and promote our core beliefs:

Success

We know that uninterrupted learning leads to improved outcomes. By removing distractions, we help every pupil engage fully in their learning and achieve their best.

Ambition

We have high expectations for all pupils. A mobile phone-free environment allows children to focus on their aspirations, learning and personal development rather than the demands of digital communication.

Grace

We encourage pupils to build respectful relationships, communicate face-to-face and demonstrate kindness and empathy in their interactions with others.

Equity

We are committed to ensuring every child has equal opportunities to participate, learn and belong. A mobile phone-free environment reduces inequalities linked to access to technology and social media.

5. Expectations for Pupils

As a Trust of primary schools, we expect that pupils will not bring mobile phones or smart devices to school unless there is a clear and legitimate reason to do so, such as:

- Travelling to and from school independently.
- An identified safeguarding need.
- Exceptional circumstances agreed by the Headteacher.

Where a mobile phone is brought to school:

- It must be switched off before entering the school premises.
- It must be handed into the school office or stored according to the school's agreed procedures immediately upon arrival.
- It must not be accessed during the school day.
- It may only be collected at the end of the school day.

Pupils must not use mobile phones or smart devices during:

- Lessons.
- Collective worship.

- Interventions.
- Breaktimes.
- Lunchtimes.
- Educational visits unless expressly authorised by staff.

6. Smart Watches and Wearable Technology

A simple watch may be worn.

Smart watches capable of:

- Calling,
- Messaging,
- Internet access,
- Photography,
- Video recording,
- Audio recording,

are not permitted unless specifically authorised by the Headteacher for medical, SEND or safeguarding reasons.

7. Exceptional Circumstances and Reasonable Adjustments

Rise Multi Academy Trust recognises that some pupils may require alternative arrangements.

Exemptions may be granted where necessary for:

- Medical needs.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Safeguarding requirements.
- Care-experienced children.
- Individual support plans.

Any exemption will:

- Be risk assessed.
- Be formally recorded.
- Be regularly reviewed.
- Be approved by the Headteacher or designated safeguarding lead.

This approach aligns with DfE guidance, which recognises that schools may make adaptations to meet individual pupil needs.

8. Educational Visits and Residential Experiences

The use of mobile phones during educational visits and residentials will be determined by the visit leader and Headteacher. Parents will be informed of arrangements in advance. The Trust reserves the right to collect and securely store devices during visits where this supports safeguarding, wellbeing and participation.

9. Breaches of the Policy

We expect all members of our school communities to uphold this policy responsibly.

Where a pupil breaches the policy:

First Incident

- Device confiscated.
- Reminder of expectations provided.
- Device returned in line with school procedures (to be agreed at school level and information shared with parents)

Repeated Incidents

- Parents informed.
- Behaviour sanctions applied in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.
- Review of permission to bring the device to school.

Serious Misuse

More serious consequences may apply where devices are used for:

- Bullying or harassment.
- Sharing inappropriate content.
- Online abuse.
- Unauthorised photography or recording.
- Any behaviour that places others at risk.

In such circumstances, safeguarding procedures will be followed, and external agencies may be involved where appropriate.

10. Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- Consistently apply this policy.

- Model appropriate use of technology.
- Refrain from using their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day.
- Promote positive digital citizenship.
- Respond promptly to concerns.
- Follow safeguarding procedures where misuse is identified.
- Follow the procedures identified in Appendix 2 of the Safeguarding Policy.

11. Partnership with Parents and Carers

Rise Multi Academy Trust values strong partnerships with families.

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Support the Trust's mobile phone-free approach.
- Contact the school office if messages need to be passed to their child during the school day.
- Reinforce responsible technology use at home.
- Encourage healthy digital habits and online safety.

Together, we can ensure that children benefit from the opportunity's technology provides while remaining protected from its risks.

12. Monitoring and Review

Headteachers will monitor implementation of this policy and report any significant concerns or trends to Trust leaders.

The Trust Board will review this policy annually or sooner if:

- Legislation changes;
- DfE guidance is updated; or
- Monitoring indicates that amendments are required.

Trust Commitment

At Rise Multi Academy Trust, we believe that children flourish when they are fully present, engaged and connected to the people around them. Through this policy, we seek to create learning environments where every child can experience success, pursue their ambitions, show grace towards others and access learning with equity, enabling all to flourish and succeed.