



9th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mobile Phones, Smart Devices and Social Media

As we start a new next academic year, I would like to remind all families of our expectations regarding mobile phones, smart devices and social media use.

Over the past two years, Haven High Academy has successfully operated a clear **"See It, Hear It, Lose It"** mobile phone policy. This approach has contributed significantly to the calm, purposeful and focused learning environment that exists across the academy today. We are therefore pleased to confirm that this policy will continue next academic year, with some refinements to further strengthen our expectations and ensure that every student is able to learn free from unnecessary distractions.

The government has recently published updated guidance mandating schools to take robust action to limit distractions caused by mobile phones during the school day. In addition, the government has announced plans to introduce a national social media ban for under-16s from Spring 2027. Whilst the detail of this legislation is still being developed, it reflects growing national concern about the impact that smartphones and social media can have on young people's wellbeing, concentration, sleep, relationships and mental health.

Research increasingly suggests that excessive smartphone and social media use can have a negative impact on young people. Concerns include reduced attention spans, increased anxiety, disrupted sleep patterns, exposure to inappropriate content, online bullying, unhealthy social comparison and a growing dependence on constant digital stimulation. Many parents will also recognise the challenges that smartphones can create within family life, including conflict around screen time and reduced face-to-face interaction.

By contrast, a childhood with fewer distractions from smartphones and social media provides young people with greater opportunity to develop friendships in person, participate in sport and enrichment activities, read, explore hobbies, spend quality time with family and focus fully on their education. Increasingly, schools, health professionals and policymakers recognise that creating smartphone-free environments plays an important role in supporting children's wellbeing, resilience, confidence and academic success.

At Haven High Academy, students do not need access to smartphones or smart devices during the school day. Students will never be required to use a smartphone as part of their learning and there is no educational need for them to have one on site. We strongly encourage students to leave their devices at home if they can. We appreciate that many parents value the ability to contact their child whilst travelling to and from the academy. Therefore, we ask that students ensure that any devices are switched off and safely secured, out of sight, during the academy day.



01205 311979



enquiries@havenhigh.net



www.havenhighacademy.net



Voyage
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Executive Head Teacher: Austin Sheppard

Company Registration Number: 8158309 (England & Wales)



@HavenHigh



@HavenHighAcademy



Our Expectations

Students are **not permitted to use, carry visibly or access a mobile phone or smart device anywhere on the academy site at any time**. Any device that is **seen, heard or used** will be confiscated in accordance with our **"See It, Hear It, Lose It"** policy. This policy is in force from our Blue Line to Blue Line.

Our approach is fully supported by national legislation and Department for Education guidance. The Academy has the legal authority to confiscate mobile phones and other prohibited items where appropriate and to apply reasonable disciplinary sanctions in response to breaches of our behaviour expectations. These powers are exercised fairly, proportionately and consistently in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Mobile Phone Sanctions

First Occurrence

- Phone confiscated.
- **15-minute detention** issued (to be completed at lunchtime or after school, as directed by the Academy).
- Device returned to the student at the end of the school day once the detention has been completed.
- Parents/carers notified via Class Charts.

Second Occurrence

- Phone confiscated for **48 hours**.
- **Device must be collected by a parent or carer.**
- **30-minute detention** issued.

Third Occurrence

- Phone confiscated for a **longer period, proportionate to the behaviour** (typically up to one month).
- **Device must be collected by a parent or carer.**
- **30-minute detention** issued.

Further Occurrences

- Students will be required to hand their phone into their Year Team at the start of each school day and collect it at the end of the school day.
- Additional sanctions may also be applied where appropriate.
- **Any student who refuses to hand over their phone when instructed will be suspended from school.**

The Academy's powers to search for, confiscate and retain mobile phones and other prohibited items are supported by the **Education Act 1996 (Sections 550ZA–550ZC)**, the **Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 91)** and the **schools (Specification and Disposal of Articles) Regulations 2012**. Full details of these statutory powers are set out within the Academy's Behaviour Policy.



As always, we are grateful for the continued support of our parents and carers in helping us maintain a calm, respectful and highly focused learning environment. By working together, we can ensure that every student is able to concentrate fully on their learning whilst developing healthy, balanced and responsible habits around technology use.
Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Austin Sheppard

**Executive Headteacher
Haven High Academy**