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Mobile Phone Policy

Whole School

Date created: September 2026

Review date:	Reviewed by:	Verified by:	Website upload
August 2027	Pastoral Team	Principal/VP	Yes

Purpose

At AIAM, we are committed to providing a safe, focused, and productive learning environment where all students can achieve their full potential. While we recognise that mobile phones can be useful for communication before and after school, they can also create significant distractions during the school day.

This policy aims to:

- Maximise learning time and concentration in lessons.
- Reduce distractions and interruptions to teaching and learning.
- Encourage positive social interaction between students.
- Strengthen students' sense of belonging by protecting time for face-to-face connection and ensure the phone-free day is matched by meaningful offline opportunities to connect.
- Promote students' wellbeing and mental health.
- Reduce incidents involving cyberbullying, inappropriate use of social media, and unauthorised photography or recording.
- Ensure students remain fully engaged in school activities and experiences.

Students who bring mobile phones to school do so at their own risk. Phones must be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day unless a member of staff has given specific permission for an educational purpose.

Why Mobile Phones Are Not Permitted During the School Day

Research and experience consistently demonstrate that mobile phones can negatively impact students' learning and wellbeing when used during school hours. Mobile phones:

- Distract students from learning and reduce concentration.
- Interrupt lessons and impact the learning of others.
- Increase dependency on social media and online communication.
- Can contribute to anxiety, peer pressure, and conflict.

- Present safeguarding concerns through photography, recording, and online activity.
- Limit opportunities for students to develop face-to-face communication skills and positive relationships.

By maintaining a phone-free school day, we create an environment where students can focus on learning, engage fully with their peers, and develop healthy habits that support their academic success and personal development.

Connection Beyond the Phone

Research on school belonging recommends that where schools restrict smartphones, the restriction is paired with strengthened offline opportunities for connection, so that reducing risk does not inadvertently remove an important source of connection for some students (Allen & Dong, 2026). Alongside this policy, AIAM will provide:

- Structured, supervised break and lunchtime activities, such as games, sports, library and quiet spaces, and student-led clubs.
- Peer support and buddy systems, with particular attention to students who are new to AIAM or who find unstructured times difficult.
- A clear and easy route for students to contact home through the school office whenever they need to.
- Opportunities for students to share, through student voice, how the phone-free day is affecting their friendships and wellbeing, with findings used to review this policy.

The Importance of Parental Support

The success of this policy depends upon strong partnership between home and school.

We ask parents and carers to:

- Reinforce the school's expectations regarding mobile phone use.
- Avoid contacting students directly during the school day unless there is an emergency.
- Contact the school office if an urgent message needs to be passed to their child.

- Support any sanctions applied when students fail to comply with the policy.

Consistent messages from both home and school help students understand the importance of responsible behaviour and respect for school expectations.

Student Non-Compliance Procedures

Any student found using a mobile phone, with a mobile phone visible, or failing to comply with staff instructions regarding their phone will be subject to the following staged interventions.

Sanctions are applied consistently, calmly and respectfully so that students experience the policy as fair. Each stage includes a brief restorative conversation so the student understands the purpose of the policy. Reflection sessions are supportive conversations rather than isolation, and staff avoid repeatedly removing the same student from clubs or activities that support their friendships. Staff remain alert to whether repeated non-compliance may indicate an underlying wellbeing, safeguarding or belonging need, such as anxiety about contacting home or difficulties with friendships; where this is the case, the student is referred to the Grade Level Lead or School Counsellor.

First Offence

- The mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and handed to SLT.
- The phone will be securely stored by the school.
- The phone may be collected by the student at the end of the school day (dispersal time).
- Parents will be informed by email.

Intended Outcome

To remind the student of expectations and prevent future incidents through parental awareness and support.

Second Offence

- The mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and handed to SLT.
- The phone will be securely stored by the school.

- A parent must collect the phone from school.
- An SLT parent meeting will be conducted.
- The student will attend a reflection session during lunchtime on the following school day.

Intended Outcome

To encourage reflection on behaviour and strengthen home-school partnership in addressing non-compliance.

Third Offence

- The mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and handed to SLT.
- A parent must collect the phone from school.
- A meeting will be held with parents/carers and relevant school staff to agree strategies for future compliance.
- Student will not be permitted to bring a phone to school until the start of the next term.

Intended Outcome

To provide a significant intervention that reinforces expectations and supports lasting behavioural change.

Exceptional Circumstances

Any student who requires access to a mobile phone for medical, safeguarding, or other exceptional reasons must obtain prior approval from the Headteacher or designated member of staff. Appropriate arrangements will be put in place on an individual basis. This includes Students of Determination who use a device for medical, communication or accessibility purposes, which will be recorded in their individual plan.

Monitoring and Review

The school reserves the right to review and amend this policy as required to ensure it remains effective in supporting student learning, wellbeing, and safety.

The impact of this policy will be monitored through confiscation and behaviour records, reports of cyberbullying, student and parent voice, and student belonging and wellbeing survey data, to ensure the phone-free day supports both learning and positive relationships.

Together, with the support of parents and carers, we can ensure that our school remains a focused, respectful, and positive learning environment for all students.

Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Wellbeing Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and BYOD and Acceptable Use Policy.

Reference

Allen, K.-A., & Dong, S. (2026). The science of belonging: Exploring the concept, drivers, barriers, and evidence-based solutions to cultivate belonging in K–12 education. Monash University, Faculty of Education, in collaboration with the International Baccalaureate.