



Use of Mobile Phones and Mobile Devices policy

Document Control

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Document Details

Organisation:	Fable House
Current Version Number:	2
Current Document Approved by:	Sonia King
Date Approved:	2.9.26
Next Review Date:	September 2027

Document Revision and Approval History

Version	Date	Version Created By:	Version Approved By:	Comments
1.00	23.01.26	Sonia King	Lizzy Latham	Drawn up in reference to new non statutory guidance, to be reviewed when statutory guidance released in April 2026
2.00	02/09/26	Lizzy Latham	Sonia King	Updated to reflect new statutory guidance



Fable House Mobile Technology Policy

(Including Mobile Phones, Tablets and Laptops)

1. Purpose and Values

At Fable House, we recognise that mobile devices are not simply leisure items. They are powerful assistive, learning and communication tools. For many of our students, particularly those with SEND, autism, ADHD, anxiety and demand-avoidant profiles, mobile devices can be:

- a regulation tool
- an organisational aid
- a communication device
- a safety tool

Mobile devices are effectively small computers in a student's pocket. When used with clear purpose, supervision and boundaries, they support our core values of Happy, Healthy and Independent.

This policy therefore sets out how mobile technology is used safely, positively and purposefully at Fable House.

2. Our Position in Relation to DfE Guidance

Fable House is mobile-phone free by default. Where an individual student's SEND, disability, medical needs or other exceptional circumstances mean that access is necessary, an individual exception or reasonable adjustment will be agreed. That access will be purposeful, proportionate and subject to appropriate boundaries.

The Department for Education guidance (statutory from June 2026) states that schools should be "mobile-phone free by default", but also confirms that:

- Disabled pupils may need access as a reasonable adjustment
- Pupils with medical needs may rely on phones to manage health conditions
- Schools must consider individual circumstances
- SEND pupils should not be placed at a substantial disadvantage by school policies

Fable House is a specialist SEND provision. We therefore recognise that individual students may require exceptions to the default position as a reasonable adjustment or



in response to their specific needs. Where an exception is agreed, access will be purposeful, proportionate and appropriately supervised.

3. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments for Mobile Phone Use

Where an individual exception or reasonable adjustment has been agreed, a student may use their mobile phone for the identified purpose and in accordance with agreed boundaries. Staff will determine when and how this access is appropriate, taking account of the student's individual needs and support arrangements.

This includes use for:

A. Regulation, Organisation, Independence and Communication

Many of our students use phones as an assistive technology, including:

- Timers and alarms to structure the day
- Reminders for transitions, tasks or breaks
- Visual schedules
- ADHD focus tools
- Calm-down or sensory regulation apps
- Using text-to-speech or speech-to-text
- Using translation or accessibility tools
- Support for a medical condition e.g. glucose monitor
- Necessary communication with family members e.g. in the case of a young carer

These tools support self-management, independence, communication and reduced anxiety.

B. Learning and Research (in the case of tablets and laptops)

Mobile phones are **not** to be used for learning and research. However, Fable House operates a Bring Your Own Device scheme where students are permitted to bring their own tablet or laptop as a learning resource. All students bringing a device from home are expected to adhere to our online safety policy, including using our filtering and monitoring system when accessing the internet. Devices may be used for the following:

- Researching topics
- Checking facts
- Looking up definitions



- Watching short learning clips
- Using calculators
- Using word processing applications
- Using presentation and spreadsheet applications

Student laptops and tablets are to be treated as learning devices, not entertainment devices.

C. Evidence, Creativity and Communication

Students may use school devices, or personal tablets and laptops permitted under the BYOD arrangements, to:

- Take photographs of their work
- Record videos of practical activities (ensuring they do not video other students)
- Create visual notes
- Document projects

This supports:

- Portfolio evidence
- Engagement
- Student voice

4. Supervision and Boundaries

Mobile device use at Fable House is never unsupervised.

- Staff decide when, where and how a device may be used, in line with this policy
- Devices must be used in line of sight of staff
- Devices must be put away when not needed
- Any misuse is addressed immediately

Devices are only permitted when they support learning, wellbeing or relationships.

They are not used for:

- Gaming (unless part of a planned activity)
- Social media browsing



- Private messaging
- Filming or photographing others without consent

5. Students Without Mobile Devices

Some students do not own or use a mobile device, or prefer not to use them at school. These students are never disadvantaged.

Fable House provides:

- School tablets
- School laptops
- Assistive technology

These can be used for the same purposes: research, photos, regulation apps, and learning tools.

6. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

Staff may use mobile phones professionally for:

- Accessing the staff messaging system
- Receiving safeguarding or timetable updates
- Making or receiving role-specific calls
- Photographing student work
- Recording evidence
- Using authentication or secure systems

Staff should not use personal mobile phones for personal reasons in front of students during the school day. Where staff use a mobile phone for an authorised professional purpose, this should be appropriate, necessary and consistent with Fable House safeguarding, data protection and professional conduct expectations.

7. Safeguarding and Filtering

All mobile technology use is covered by:

- Online safety policy
- Safeguarding policy



- Acceptable use agreements

Staff monitor:

- What is being accessed
- How it is being used
- Whether it is supporting or disrupting learning

Any safeguarding concerns are reported to the DSL immediately.

8. Misuse of Mobile Phones

If a phone is used in a way that:

- Disrupts learning
- Causes distress
- Risks safety
- Breaches boundaries

Staff may:

- Ask the phone to be put away
- Temporarily hold the device (no longer than the end of the school day)
- Limit future access
- Review usage plans
- Communicate with parents

All responses will be proportionate, supportive and SEND-aware

9. Our SEND Informed Approach

For some individual students, access to particular functions of a mobile phone may form an important part of their individual support arrangements. Where identified through assessment of individual need, appropriate access may support regulation, communication, organisation, independence or safety. Removing access without consideration of the individual student's needs could increase dysregulation, reduce independence or communication, or create a barrier to learning.



Fable House therefore considers reasonable adjustments and other exceptions on an individual basis, while maintaining a mobile phone-free environment by default. This approach reflects our commitment to trauma-informed and neuro-affirming practice alongside our statutory responsibilities.

Linked Policies

Online Safety Policy

Behaviour Policy

Staff Code of Conduct