

Noble Academy Phone-Free Policy FAQ

Why did Noble Academy make this change in the Upper School?

This updated policy reflects our commitment to creating the best possible learning environment for all students, and our evolving understanding of how to do so in a shifting technological landscape. Noble Academy remains fully supportive of educational technology, and strives to leverage it most effectively for students with learning differences. Research shows that phone-free school environments lead to stronger academic focus, better social connections, and improved mental health.

Is this a punishment?

Absolutely not. No student or group caused this change, and it was not prompted by an event; updated information and understanding, as well as our own observations, prompted our decision.

What about using phones for learning support?

Noble remains committed to flexibility in meeting the needs of teachers and students. Students who need specific assistive technology will be able to request accommodations. Teachers who have an important academic use for cell phones in a specific lesson will simply make arrangements for those devices to be available. Our administration will work with each student to ensure they have the tools they need for academic success.

How will this work day-to-day?

Students will turn in their devices to a secure location at the beginning of each school day and retrieve them at Checkpoint at the end of the day. Students who arrive late will drop off devices at the front desk.

What about Chromebooks/laptops?

There are many significant differences between smart phones/watches and Chromebooks/laptops, including purpose, educational control, social impact, distractability and portability. Students will continue to have full access to their Chromebooks/laptops throughout the school day, and may use communication tools appropriately on those devices.

What about emergencies?

Parents can always reach students through the front office. Students who need to contact parents can do so through the main office, or an administrative office, and there is a phone in every classroom and office. Additionally, student phones are stored with advisors, so they are never far away if absolutely needed. In a school our size, help and communication are always accessible.

What about coming and going from campus during the day?

If students leave campus mid-day with intention to return, they will take their device with them, and check it back in upon their return.

What if my phone gets damaged?

Noble Academy will store phones in locked “phone homes” and will exercise reasonable care and supervision in order to return devices to owners in the same condition as received. Noble does not accept liability for loss or damage.

Will there be consequences for policy violations?

Our expectation is that all students will follow this policy, as we expect them to follow all school rules, with consequences laid out in our Handbook.

How is this consistent with Noble's values?

This policy demonstrates our core commitment to evidence-based practices that support every student. We're being intentional about creating the conditions where our students can form stronger relationships, develop better focus, and experience less social pressure—exactly what Noble has always been about. It is also consistent with our approach to providing accommodations on an individual basis based on documented student needs.

Will you reconsider this policy?

This policy is based on extensive research and our observations of what helps students thrive. We're committed to this approach because we believe it will significantly benefit our school community.