

Behaviour and Mobile Devices for Learning Policy.

Reviewed by:	Local Governors
Frequency of policy review:	Annual
Last Reviewed:	2 Sep 2026
By Steve Goad	
Ratified by Local Board of Governors on:	9th September 2026
By Derek Marshall	
Next Review Date:	September 2027

Version History

Date of review	Summary of Changes
1st December 2024	• added version history • updated policy references • updated reference to positive discipline • reformatted to house style • spelling/grammar updates
1st December 2025	grammar updates Clarified reference to behaviour strategy
31 March 2026	Update to refer the Policy to the TCAT Restrictive Intervention and Reasonable Force Policy Page 4
2 Sep 2026	Removed unnecessary additional info to make policy more concise Added reference to the most up to date strategies relating to behaviour Added a Mobile Phone Policy

Statement of Behaviour Principles

The UTC maintains a Behaviour strategy that is used by all staff to recognise professional conduct and consistently challenge poor behaviour with a view to supporting students to reach high expectations as quickly as possible after starting at the UTC.

Aims

To achieve our aims staff at the UTC will: -

- Provide a safe, welcoming environment at the UTC
- Place the emphasis on learning
- Recognise, praise and reward conduct that reaches or exceeds expectations using the Positive Discipline strategy
- Implement quick and effective intervention where conduct does not reach expectations as per the consequence strategy
- Make clear to students the expectations of the UTC's Code of Conduct – found in the Parent, Carer and Student Handbook (the Handbook) on the UTC website and re-enforced through regular communication
- Ensure sanctions are in proportion to the nature of the incident and the circumstances of the student
- Work in partnership with parents, carers and external organisations as appropriate

Positive Discipline

We regularly recognise and celebrate the effort and achievement of our students.

We aim to promote the qualities that will make our students more employable in the future - including our core values of Communication, Professionalism and Resilience.

The Positive Discipline Strategy uses evidence-based research to reward individuals, as well as groups of students, and carefully considers Pupil Premium (PP) students and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Please refer to the Positive Discipline strategy.

Business Dress, Conduct around the Building and Out of Lessons

Positive Discipline includes students demonstrating high standards of Business Dress (explained in the Dress Code in the Handbook) The UTC reserves the right to address inappropriate or incorrect items of Business Dress by implementing an appropriate sanction.

Sanctions

The UTC will issue a fair and proportional sanction, where expectations are not met, in line with the incident or severity. These are clearly shared with staff and students and displayed around the UTC. Sanctions are explained in the UTC Consequences Strategy.

Monitoring, Support, and Intervention

The UTC accepts that for a wide variety of reasons some students require additional support to learn and display positive learning behaviour. For these students, the UTC will draw on a range of support interventions to improve conduct with the support and engagement of parents, carers and students. Strategies may include consideration of additional learning support, identification of Special Educational Need, placement on a pastoral support plan and use of external expertise and short-term external placements.

Exclusion

Please refer to the TCAT Exclusions Policy.

Anti-Bullying

Please refer to the UTC Anti-Bullying Policy.

Conduct outside of the UTC

Any concerning conduct offsite such as activity such as trips, sports fixtures or a work experience placement will be addressed in the same manner as if the incident had taken place at the UTC. This includes any conduct issue close to the UTC or on the way to or from school. For acts of aggression or acts which threaten the health and safety of others, the UTC reserves the right to involve the police.

Searching Students

The UTC acknowledges its duties and responsibilities under the Education Acts of 1996 and 2011, Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Health and Safety at Work 1974 in respect of screening and searching students. As a result, UTC staff may search students' clothing, bags or lockers without consent for any banned item we believe could cause harm. This process will only be undertaken by designated staff including staff from the senior team or pastoral team. Any searching of students' clothing, bags or lockers will be undertaken by two staff. Staff will inform the student as to the reason why they are conducting the search and no matter the outcome, the member of senior staff will inform the parents and carers of the student of the actions taken and the reasons why they were taken. The UTC may need to proceed to police involvement or initiate safeguarding processes.

Positive Handling

The UTC acknowledges its duties and responsibilities under the 2006 Education and Inspections Act in which all school employees have a legal power to use reasonable force to prevent students committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others, or damaging property and to maintain good order and discipline amongst students. This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the TCAT Use of Restrictive Intervention and Reasonable Force Policy.

Allegations against Staff

All allegations made against UTC staff by parents/carers or students will be taken seriously. This will follow the Allegations of Abuse against Staff Procedure (available on request by contacting the UTC).

Parent and Carer Involvement

The UTC seeks to work closely with parents and carers to help them be involved in the education of their child. The UTC seeks to involve parents and carers actively on behaviour for learning issues. Approaches include:

- Early involvement and regular communication between tutor and parent/carer regarding behaviour issues
- Supporting students on reports
- Agreement of the Code of Conduct
- Reintegration meetings following suspension with clarity around how to avoid further problems
- Invitations to agency meetings

Parents are welcome to approach the UTC for informal or formal discussions about their child's education and support for positive behavior.

Mobile devices

The UTC acknowledges that students will need to have access to mobile devices for their journeys to and from school. This helps with safeguarding and student protection especially in the long dark winter months. The UTC also understands that our students travel from varying distances and access a variety of methods of travel and so have acknowledged this when writing this policy. However, once on site mobile devices are not allowed to be used by students anywhere on the UTC site. Students are also issued their own personal chromebook and so this supports students learning as they can readily access resources to support their learning.

Years 10 and 11

- Students who bring devices onto site must ensure that they are switched off and not seen or heard anywhere on the UTC premises. This includes the device ringing, vibrating or making sounds to notify the user of alerts at any time.
- If a student needs to communicate with home then they need to speak to a member of the Pastoral Team who will facilitate the conversation.
- If a parent/carer needs to contact a student then they should contact reception who will ensure that the message is actioned.
- The only exception to this rule is students who need their phones for approved critical medical or safeguarding purposes e.g. Diabetes monitoring.
- If smart watches interrupt learning then these will also be confiscated and dealt with in the same way as mobile phones.

Post 16 Students

Post 16 students are allowed to use their mobile devices in designated areas in the 6th Form Study area and the 6th Form Social Area only. They are not allowed to use them in lessons or outside of these designated areas. This reflects their increased independence and responsibility around their learning. Therefore, Post 16 students need to only use their mobile devices in these designated areas and any misuse of this will result in a sanction being applied.

Sanctions

The UTC seeks to reflect a professional work place and if a student is seen with a mobile device then they will apply the appropriate sanctions. If a phone is seen by a member of staff then it will be confiscated as permitted to confiscate phones from the student under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. If the UTC has reason to believe that the phone has been used to commit an offence then the UTC will contact the relevant agencies as appropriate.

- If mobile phones are seen, or heard on the school site, or if it is brought to our attention that pupils have been using their phone during the school day, then the phone will be confiscated.
- When a mobile device is confiscated then a sanction will be applied and the phone can be collected by the student at the end of the school day from the Pastoral Office.
- If a student repeatedly breaches the policy then the UTC will escalate the sanctions as per the behaviour policy.
- Any student who fails to hand over their mobile device will result in a follow up sanction being issued.

Monitoring and Review

The Principal will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy, review it annually and report to the Local Board of Governors. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the UTC.