



Ripon Grammar School

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

1. Policy

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance that schools should be 'mobile-free environments', Ripon Grammar School will:

- Prohibit Year 7-11 using mobile phones and other smart technology throughout the school day, including during lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes, before and after school while on the school site.
- Permit Year 12-13 access to mobile phones and laptops in designated areas.
- Allow non-smart phones on site strictly for the ability of students to contact home before or after school once off the school site. Such phones must be switched off and stored away in bags or blazers.
- Continue the roll out of the smart phone ban from Year 7 and 8 to include 9-11 over the next three years.
- Prohibit use of all smartwatches, air tags and ear devices [with exemptions for sixth form] for all years.
- Provide exemptions for students with a medical/SEND need.
- Seek to educate students about the risks and dangers of excessive phone use, social media and online abuse.
- Ensure staff use of phones is strictly for educational/business related activity and not personal use when in the company of students.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- 'Smart' mobile phones and laptops are defined by the DfE as devices capable of receiving internet access, receiving notifications/messages and with video and app store capabilities.
- 'Non-smart' [brick] phones are capable only of receiving calls and texts

3. Procedures for 2026-7

Year 7-8

- Are permitted a non-smart phone on school site but it must be switched off and stored in a bag, locker or blazer. It may not be used on the school site at any time.
- Smartphones and laptops are not permitted on the school site unless as an agreed way of working for a SEND or medical need.
- Smartwatches, air tags and ear devices are prohibited.
- Improper use will result in a detention and confiscation of the device, with collection by parents allowed from the following day.

Years 9-11

- As above but with the added permission of being able to have a smartphone on site – switched off and out of site at all times. [Note: this will change with the phased rollout of the smartphone ban]

Year 12-13

- Are permitted a smartphone or non-smart phone and laptop on the school site which should usually be switched off and in a bag/blazer.
- Use of a device is permitted inside [or outside at the back] of the sixth form centre, or in a lesson/private study for an approved educational reason.
- Students in Year 7-11 should not be able to see Year 12-13 using their phones on the school site. This includes the use of ear devices/ear phones.
- Laptops may be brought to school and used in the sixth form centre.
- Improper use will result in a detention and confiscation with collection by the student at the end of the day. All smartwatches are prohibited.

Boarders

- Boarders require the ability to communicate home with parents and so are permitted a smartphone or non-smart phone or laptop in the boarding house but times of use are strictly regulated and phones will be handed in overnight at specific times dependent on age.
- As a result, all use of the phone network must be strictly age-appropriate and parents are expected to ensure requisite age restrictions are placed on phones.

School Trips

- Decisions with regard to the use and control of mobile devices on school trips will be taken on the basis of the trip's purpose, the age of the students and the wider educational context. The school will take action to ensure that mobile phones do not disrupt the educational experience of the trip and will enforce sanctions for misuse.
- Separate protocols will be enforced including confiscation for misuse, overnight storage etc.
- The school has two mobile phones with international coverage for visit leaders to use in the event they need to contact parents or school staff.

Additional Safeguards for all years:

- The school will continue to educate students about the dangers of online content, appropriate usage and mental health considerations.
- All access to the internet in school is through appropriate filtering systems.
- Staff will remain vigilant to prohibited use of mobile phones and report/confiscate as appropriate.
- Mobile phones and other associated smart devices are items that can be searched for if there are reasonable grounds to suspect misuse. The school may search for and confiscate prohibited devices in accordance with the Education Act 1996, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE guidance on searching, screening and confiscation."

Parents

- Parents are expected to support the school policy and avoid contacting students directly during the school day. In an emergency contact should be made through reception.

Additional Points

- Reasonable adjustments will be made for parents who are unable to collect their child's phone for reasons set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Relevant Guidance

- [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mobile-phones-in-schools)