Ripon Grammar School

18 September 2025

Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought I would update you on our revised policy with regards to mobile phones. You will no doubt be pleased to hear that we have seen a marked drop in non-permitted phone usage – particularly at the start and end of the day. Students are to be commended, on the whole, for following our guidance and giving themselves a phone free day. We will continue to be vigilant in maintaining this policy and hope that the consequences of using a phone – confiscation and requiring parents/house staff to collect – remains the key contributory factor in the policy's success.

One or two queries have come in concerning the school's power to confiscate. Here is the gov.uk guidance we follow:

Schools can use a range of sanctions for breaching the mobile phone policy appropriate to their context, including confiscation and detentions. Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case. Headteachers are backed by the DfE to confiscate mobile phones and similar devices for the length of time they deem proportionate. In considering whether a confiscation is a proportionate penalty, schools should consider what disciplinary outcome the confiscation is intended to achieve and whether there are other ways to achieve the same outcome.

Given the current success of the policy, the school's view is that confiscation remains a proportionate penalty. Our preferred outcome is that students adhere to the school rules and give themselves a phone free day with no need for confiscation and collection.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster
Ripon Grammar School