

## Mobile-Free Learning Environment Policy - Senior High

### Background

This policy is in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance on [Mobile Phones in Schools, 2024](#). By implementing a comprehensive mobile phone policy, our school aims to create a focused and respectful learning environment that prioritises academic achievement and promotes healthy social interactions.

### Aims of Procedures

- Promote safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for students
- Prevent mobile phone use from hindering learning and social interactions
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

### Procedures

- Mobile phones are brought to school at the student's own risk. The security of phones will remain the student's responsibility during school hours and during travel to and from school.
- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to or from school.
- Mobile phones should be turned off completely and in a student's bag (or locker) during tutor group, all lessons (including Study Hall) and when students are moving between lessons or school buildings.
- Students are not permitted to use their phones for any reason on the Primary School or Junior High School campuses.
- Students are not permitted to turn phones on, or use them, during after school clubs or during school-organised transport journeys. This includes travelling on school transportation to or from school and going to and from PE lessons.
- Senior High students must seek permission to use their phone to call or text their parents/guardians at reception with the permission of a teacher or the school secretary if contact is necessary during the school day (outside of break or lunch times).
- On trips, use of mobile phones is at the discretion of the Senior Leadership.
- Students may use their phones in the Senior High school building before and after school, as well as during morning break and lunchtime. This policy will be reviewed each term, considering stakeholder feedback and current research.

### Sanctions

- If a student has a phone visible or uses a phone at prohibited times without teacher permission (this includes the device ringing, vibrating or making sounds to notify the user of alerts etc.), the phone will be confiscated by the teacher and be given to a member of the Leadership Team. The phone will be returned at the end of the day.
- On a second occasion of unacceptable mobile phone use, the phone will be confiscated by the teacher and be given to a member of the Leadership Team. A parent will be required to collect the phone at the school office.
- If a student repeatedly violates the mobile phone policy, additional intervention by School Leadership will take place and may result in the student losing the privilege of bringing a phone to school or further sanctions such as detention, internal exclusion, or other disciplinary action.

## Smartwatches

Following the DfE's non-statutory mobile phone guidance, which includes the term 'mobile phones' being devices with communications and smart technology, smartwatches are defined as wristwatches with smart technology in them. They can be used to tell the time, send and receive text and voice messages, make calls and listen to music. Some smartwatches have wellness and health-related features. They also have access to the external mobile communications, texting and internet.

Smartwatches will fall subject to the same procedures as mobile phones if:

- Communication via texting, speaking, video conferencing takes place
- Disruption to classes from noise, sight or behaviour occurs

## Headphones & Earbuds

- Senior High students may use headphones and earbuds in specific areas and at designated times, which include:
  - Before school, during lunch, and after school in the Gallery, on Floor 4, Floor 5, and in the Senior Suite.
- Students are not permitted to wear headphones or earbuds while:
  - Moving around the school
  - Between lessons
  - During class time\*  
*\*exception: listening tasks in language lessons*
- **Study Hall Policy**
  - During Study Hall, headphones and earbuds may only be connected to laptops, not mobile phones.

## Data Protection & Safeguarding

- It is not acceptable to take pictures or videos of someone else without their permission.
- Any message, call, text, post or repost which is construed as cyber-bullying will result in significant consequences as outlined in Riverside's [Anti-bullying Policy](#) , [Child Protection \(Safeguarding\) Policy](#), [Child on Child Abuse & Sexual Harassment Policy](#), [Online Safety Policy](#), [Data Protection Policy](#), and [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

## Policy Review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents/carers and pupils
- Feedback from staff
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority and any other relevant organisations

Updated: October 2024

Next update: September 2025