

## Mobile-Free Learning Environment Policy - Primary & Junior High School

### 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

### Never Used, Never Seen, Never Heard

At Riverside, we prioritise creating an uninterrupted learning environment that supports both academic success and student wellbeing. To achieve this, we enforce a strict mobile phone policy where devices must be completely powered off and stored away on the school premises. Phones should never be visible, in use, or audible. By reducing distractions, we foster a space where students can fully engage with their studies and one another, promoting positive learning environments, mental health and emotional wellbeing. This approach encourages mindfulness and helps students develop healthier relationships with technology, ultimately enhancing their overall educational experience. It is strongly recommended that students not bring mobile phones to school, as it's the most complete way to ensure phones are never used, never seen or never heard.

### 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 the school day.
- Students are not permitted to use their phones within the school building, on school grounds, or when walking between lessons or school buildings. This applies before and after school, as well as during morning break and lunchtime.
- Students are not permitted to turn phones on, or use them, during after school clubs or during school-organised transport journeys before or after school.
- Students may not use their phones when travelling on school transportation to or from school, including public transportation and going to and from PE lessons. Students must seek permission to use their phone to call or text their parents/guardians at the reception with the permission of a teacher or the school secretary.
- On trips, use of mobile phones is at the discretion of the Senior Leadership.

## 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

## 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

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Next update: September 2025