Richard Lander School
Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Effective From: September 2026

Responsibility: Deputy Head/Head/Governing Body

Reviewed and monitored by: Deputy Head/Head/Governing Body

Review Date: September 2027

Rationale and Aims

The school recognises that mobile phones are a normal part of modern life; however, their use during the school day can have a significant impact on learning, behaviour, wellbeing, and safeguarding. In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, the school has a duty to provide a safe, calm, and focused learning environment and to set clear expectations around behaviour and the use of technology. Unrestricted access to mobile phones during the school day can lead to distraction, misuse, bullying, and safeguarding concerns.

This policy aims to:

- Promote a focused and disruption-free learning environment
- Support positive behaviour and respectful social interaction
- Reduce the risk of misuse of technology, including filming, online bullying, and inappropriate content
- Safeguard students and promote wellbeing
- Ensure clear, consistent expectations for students, staff, and parents

By requiring mobile phones to be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day, the school prioritises learning, safety, and positive relationships, while still enabling students to contact parents when necessary through supervised arrangements.

Scope

This policy applies to all students while on the school site for the duration of the school day, including:

- Lessons
- Change of lessons
- Break times
- Lunch times
- School-organised activities unless otherwise authorised

Policy Statement

Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' school bags for the whole of the school day. Mobile phones may not be used in lessons, at change of lessons, or at break or lunch times. Phones must not be seen, heard, or used at any time during the school day unless explicitly permitted under the exceptions outlined below.

Contacting Parents During the School Day

If students need to contact their parents or carers during the school day, they must report to either:

- the Student Support Office, or
- the Student Reception Office.

Students will be permitted to contact parents under staff supervision. Where appropriate, and at the discretion of staff, students may be permitted to make the call using their own mobile phone device under supervision.

Carrying a Mobile Phone on the Person

If a student is found carrying a mobile phone on their person (i.e. the phone is not switched off and stored in their school bag), this will be logged as a behaviour incident and parents/carers will be informed. If this occurs more than once in a half term, the student will receive a detention. Repeated incidents may result in further sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Breach of Policy – Use of Mobile Phones

If a student is seen using a mobile phone at any point during the school day, the phone will be confiscated. If a student's phone is confiscated more than once in a half term, the student will receive a detention. Persistent or serious breaches may result in further sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Responsibility and Liability

Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to mobile phones brought onto the school site, including when a phone is confiscated following a breach of the policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective, proportionate, and aligned with current DfE guidance and school practice.

Exemptions

The only exemptions to this policy are when:

- A student needs to use a mobile phone for a specific medical condition (e.g. a student who is Type 1 diabetic who may need to check their blood sugar level)
- For a specific purpose related to the curriculum (e.g. as part of a GCSE photography course), and only under the direct supervision of staff