



RICARDS LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

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Our Vision

At Ricards Lodge High School, our Behaviour for Learning approach is rooted in the understanding that emotional safety is the prerequisite for academic success. We believe in creating a "Digital Sanctuary" an environment where students can develop deep focus and foster face-to-face relationships without the constant interruption of digital notifications.

By removing these devices from the school day, we protect our students from digital pressures and ensure our "Climate for Learning" remains inclusive and calm.

The "Not Seen, Not Heard" Rule

In line with [DfE guidelines](#) (February 2026), Ricards Lodge is a phone free site.

- Mobile Phones must be switched off and kept at the bottom of the student's school bag or in their locker from arrival until the end of the school day.
- Year 7 and Year 8 students (from September 2026) are not permitted to have Smart phones onsite.
- Smartwatches are treated exactly the same as mobile phones. Any watch with cellular capability, messaging, or internet access must be switched off and stored in the school bag or locker. They are not to be worn during the school day.
- Devices are not permitted during lessons, transitions, break times, or lunchtimes.
- At KS4. in exceptional circumstances only, devices can be approved for use by a member of SLT for examination purposes only.
- At KS5 students can use their phones in the sixth form buildings and in lesson time if permission is granted by the teacher. In the main school building RR6 students will be asked to put their phones away if seen.
- Students must take full responsibility for their mobile phone or other personal items brought on site; the school cannot be held responsible for any items.

Medical Exemptions

Students who need their mobile phones to support medical issues including but not exclusively Type 1 Diabetes or other health conditions requiring continuous monitoring, e.g. glucose, via smartphone apps. This will be approved on a case by case basis.

Clear Consequences

To maintain a consistent and safe environment, we operate a firm "No-Seeing, No-Hearing" policy:

- If a phone or smartwatch is seen or heard at any point during the school day, it will be confiscated by staff.
- Confiscated devices will be securely held in the Main Office. Students may collect their device after 3:00pm at the end of the school day.
- We expect students to take responsibility for their actions. A refusal to hand over a device upon request is a serious breach of school rules and will result in escalation in line with our Behaviour for Learning policy, which may include internal suspension, fixed term suspension and/or a meeting with parents.

Information for Parents & Carers

- Parents and carers are required not to contact their child via their mobile phone or smartwatch during the day. This creates a conflict for the student and leads to confiscation.
- All urgent messages should be directed through the Main School Office. We will ensure information is communicated to your child promptly and sensitively.