

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Regent High School is a “no phone zone”. This is clearly communicated to all pupils through clear messaging across the site, with frequent reminders in assemblies.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a calm, focused and safe learning environment, free from the distraction, disruption and safeguarding risks associated with mobile phones and other electronic devices.

This policy has been updated to reflect Section 36 of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act (2026) and the Department for Education’s statutory guidance, Mobile phones in schools, which became statutory on 29 June 2026 and applies to schools from

1 September 2026. The school is required to have regard to this statutory guidance. In accordance with it, Regent High School operates a policy which prohibits pupils from using mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, between lessons, at breaktime and lunchtime.



Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all students in Years 7 to 13. Sixth Form are permitted to use their devices in the Box Office and Sixth Form Study Centre only.

All staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors are expected to support and model the school’s expectations. Where staff roles require them to be contactable, phones may be used with discretion and never in a way that undermines expectations for pupils. In exceptional circumstances, and under strict supervision, certain classes (eg: Sixth Form) may be permitted to use smart phones as a learning tool with the teacher’s permission.

General expectations

Regent High School operates as a mobile phone free environment throughout the school day. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones or personal electronic devices to school. Where such devices are brought onto the school site, they are brought entirely at the owner’s risk. Any device brought onto the school site must be switched off and kept out of sight at all times once the student enters the school premises.

Devices must not be used at any point during the school day, including non-uniform days at the end of term. This includes before school, between lessons, breaktime, lunchtime, after school while still on site, and while leaving the school premises. The policy applies to all areas of the site, including classrooms, corridors, toilets, the courtyard, playground, other outdoor spaces and the pitches.

Loss, theft and damage

The school does not accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of mobile phones or any other electronic devices brought onto the school site. This reflects the fact that such items are valuable, increase the risk of theft, and are not required for learning during the school day.

Confiscation

If a mobile phone or electronic device is seen, heard or used on the school site at any time during the school day, it will be confiscated by a member of staff. Confiscation is carried out in line with Department for Education guidance on searching, screening and confiscation and the school’s Behaviour Policy. If a pupil refuses to hand over their device, this will be treated as defiance and sanctioned appropriately under the school’s Behaviour Policy.

The Headteacher is authorised under Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act (2006) to confiscate, retain and, where appropriate, dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary sanction.

Although the device will usually be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day, the return of any confiscated device is at the Headteacher's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to collect the device at the agreed time and in the agreed manner. Repeated or serious breaches of this policy will be treated as breaches of school rules and may result in further sanctions.

Searching

The school may search a pupil or their possessions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a prohibited item is being carried, in accordance with statutory powers and national guidance. Mobile phones and electronic devices are identified by the school as items that may be searched for where necessary.

Safeguarding, online safety and illegal content

Any incidents involving cyberbullying, inappropriate online behaviour, or the possession of illegal or harmful content will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy and relevant statutory guidance. Where there is a concern that a pupil may be at risk of harm, staff will follow the school's safeguarding procedures and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Examinations

Examination regulations state that no mobile phone or electronic device may be taken into an examination room under any circumstances. Any breach of these regulations may lead to disqualification from that examination and potentially others, in line with awarding body rules.

Reasonable adjustments and medical needs

The school recognises its duties under the Equality Act (2010) and the Children and Families Act (2014). In exceptional circumstances, reasonable adjustments may be made for individual pupils, including where a mobile phone or electronic device is required to support a disability or medical condition. Any such arrangements must be agreed in advance with the school and will be strictly limited to the specific purpose, time and location required.

Use outside the school day

This policy applies throughout the school day while students are on the school site. Arrangements for the use of mobile phones on educational visits, residential trips or activities outside the normal school day will be set out in risk assessments and trip guidance, with safeguarding and educational purpose as the priority.

Communication with families

Parents and carers are asked to support the school by reinforcing this policy and its rationale. Where parents or carers need to contact a student during the school day, this should be done via the school office. Messages will be passed on where appropriate. The school will continue to communicate this policy clearly to pupils and families and will review its effectiveness regularly.

Reviewed : September 2026

Changes : Updated to reflect Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act (2026) and statutory Department for Education guidance on mobile phones in schools

Next review : March 2028, or sooner if legislation or statutory guidance changes