

Mobile Phone Policy

Repton School Abu Dhabi is committed to fostering a focused, calm and positive learning environment. To minimise digital distraction and support students' learning, wellbeing and face-to-face social interaction, the school operates a **mobile phone-free policy** during the school day.

Supporting a Positive Educational Experience

A phone-free environment supports students to:

- Concentrate more effectively in lessons
- Engage more meaningfully with peers and staff
- Build healthy digital habits and reduce reliance on devices

This approach aligns with wider evidence-informed practice and initiatives such as **Smartphone Free Childhood**, which promote reduced phone access during the school day to support student wellbeing.

Policy Details

Expectations for all students

- Phones must be switched off and locked in the school-issued pouch during morning registration.
- Mobile phones must not be visible, or used anywhere on campus (including before and after school; provided the pouch has been unlocked at the designated unlocking point at the end of the day.)
- Students must unlock pouches only at designated mobile phone unlocking points located at school exits at the end of the school day.
- Once unlocked at the end of the day, students may use their phone outside the building.

If a student forgets their pouch

- The student must take their phone to **Reception on arrival**, where it will be securely stored until the end of the school day.
- The student may collect the phone from Reception at the end of the school day.

Smartwatches and other devices

- Smartwatches and other electronic communication devices must be **switched off** and kept **out of sight in bags** at all times.

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Enforcement of the Policy

If a phone is seen outside a locked pouch (at any time)

- The student must hand the phone to the member of staff immediately.
- The phone will be taken to **Reception for safe storage**.
- **Reception will contact the parent/guardian and the phone must be collected in person by a parent.** Students are not permitted to collect confiscated phones.
- Breaches will be sanctioned with an immediate one day internal suspension

Contacting home during the school day

- If a student needs to contact home, they must go to **Reception** and request to use the school phone
- Parents/guardians who need to contact their child during the school day should call **Reception**.

Additional Rules on Mobile Phone Use

- Using phones to record, photograph, or video others without consent is strictly prohibited and may result in serious consequences.
- Cyberbullying or inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated and may be escalated to senior leadership and, where necessary, external authorities.
- Phones, smartwatches, and all electronic communication devices are **banned in examinations**. Any student found with a device in an exam will be reported to the examination board.

Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians are asked to:

- Reinforce responsible phone use outside school hours
- Collect the mobile phone and meet with a member of staff to discuss the infringement.
- Monitor and support healthy digital habits at home
- Recognise that the school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices

By working together, we can maintain a learning environment that prioritises student success, wellbeing and meaningful social connection.

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