RAINFORD HIGH

Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Owner	Principal
Scope of the Policy	Rainford High
Written/last reviewed	**September 2026**
Next review due	**September 2027**
Summary of key changes	Added sentence about how we use metal detection wands to check if students have phones on their person.

1. Policy Overview

This policy outlines the school's expectations regarding the use of mobile phones and connected devices during the school day. In line with Department for Education guidance (Mobile Phones in Schools guidance February 2026), and as part of our commitment to safeguarding, student wellbeing, and high-quality learning, students are not permitted to use mobile phones while on school premises or during school activities.

To support the consistent implementation of this policy, all students will be issued with a Secure Lockable Phone Pouch.

At Rainford, a mobile phone is a prohibited item.

2. Objectives of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Minimise disruption to learning caused by mobile phones and other connected devices
- Promote positive behaviour, engagement, wellbeing, and healthy social interaction
- Prevent the misuse of mobile devices, including bullying, filming, upskirting, social media misuse, and academic dishonesty
- Strengthen safeguarding procedures and reduce risks associated with online activity during the school day
- Support a calm, focused, and respectful learning environment through clear and consistent expectations

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All students throughout the school day, including breaktimes, lunchtimes, and movement between lessons
- All communication-enabled devices, such as mobile phones.
- All areas of the school site, as well as off-site educational visits and school-organised activities

4. Secure Lockable Phone Pouches – How the System Works

- Each student will be issued with an individually assigned secure phone pouch
- Students are required to bring their pouch to school every day
- During tutor time each morning, students must place their phone inside the pouch and lock it under staff supervision
- The locked pouch remains in the student's possession throughout the school day
- Pouches can only be unlocked at the end of the final lesson using designated unlocking stations
- Students leaving school early for authorised reasons may have their pouch unlocked at reception
- If a student forgets their pouch, then they are required to hand their mobile phone to their tutor and their phone will be stored in the school mobile phone safe and they can collect their phone at the end of the school day from reception.
- Students who say they have not brought their phone into school may be checked with the school metal detector wands to confirm they do not have their phone. This is completed in line with the searching and confiscation policy.

5. Expectations of Students

Students are expected to:

- Bring their secure phone pouch to school every day and use it correctly
- Keep both their pouch and phone safe, secure, and free from damage
- Follow all staff instructions relating to the use of the pouch system

- Refrain from bringing or using any item intended to bypass the system, including secondary phones, unlocking devices, or unauthorised smart technology
- Avoid tampering with, damaging, or defacing the pouch, as this will be treated as deliberate misconduct

6. Expectations of Staff

Staff are expected to:

- Consistently enforce the phone pouch procedure during tutor time
- Carry out visual checks to ensure phones are secured appropriately
- Conduct spot checks where misuse or non-compliance is suspected
- Support the Unlock pouches at the end of the school day where authorised to do so
- Report missing pouches, damage, or misuse to pastoral and senior staff
- Ensure unlocking stations are kept secure and inaccessible to students

7. Expectations of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Ensure their child brings their secure phone pouch to school each day
- Support the school's expectation that phones are not used during the school day
- Accept responsibility for replacement costs where a pouch is deliberately damaged or lost
- Contact the school reception in the event of an emergency, as students will not be directly contactable during the school day

8. Breaches of the Policy

Examples of Breach of Policy

- Phone not secured in pouch
- Attempting to bypass the system (e.g. second phone, unlocking tools)
- Deliberate damage or vandalism to pouch
- Persistent non-compliance

The school reserves the right to apply sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy where necessary.

Students who breach the policy will receive a significant sanction, such as a suspension

9. Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, parents and carers should contact the school reception. If a student needs to contact home urgently, this will be facilitated by school staff through appropriate channels.

10. Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy relating to medical needs must be agreed in writing with the Senior Leadership Team. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis and supporting evidence, such as medical evidence, may be required. All requests of this nature will be managed discreetly.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and reviewed annually, or sooner if required in response to updated Department for Education guidance or operational needs.