

Repton Dubai

Mobile and Digital Device Policy

Academic Year 2026–27

Owner: Senior Leadership Team · Review cycle: Annual · Applies to all students, staff and visitors on the Repton Dubai campus

1. Rationale and Aims

Repton Dubai recognises that mobile phones and digital devices are an integral part of modern life and that, when used responsibly, technology can enrich learning and support communication. At the same time, the school has a duty of care to ensure that the school environment is safe, focused and free from unnecessary disruption. Research consistently shows that the presence of mobile phones in schools — even when not in active use — can reduce students' ability to concentrate, contribute to social anxiety, and create opportunities for cyberbullying and misuse of social media.

This policy sets out a clear, consistent and fair framework for the use of mobile phones and digital devices at Repton Dubai. It applies to all members of the school community — students, staff, parents and visitors — and reflects the school's commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing, academic integrity and the responsible use of technology.

Aims of this Policy

- To create a focused and distraction-free learning environment across the school day.
- To protect the wellbeing, privacy and dignity of every member of the school community.
- To promote responsible, ethical and purposeful use of technology and the internet.
- To prevent cyberbullying, harassment and the misuse of social media platforms.
- To safeguard students from harmful online content, contacts and conduct.
- To ensure that technology is used to enhance learning, not replace effort or independent thinking.
- To support parents in understanding and reinforcing the school's expectations at home.
- To align with KHDA requirements and UAE federal law on the use of technology in schools.

2. Scope and Definitions

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Repton Dubai and covers any use of mobile phones or digital devices on the school campus, during school-organised activities (including trips, excursions and sports fixtures), and in any online spaces where a student's conduct reflects on or affects the Repton Dubai community.

Key Definitions

Mobile Phone: Any handheld device with the capability to make calls, send messages or connect to the internet, including smartphones and smartwatches with cellular connectivity.

Digital Device: Any technology capable of connecting to the internet, storing data, capturing images or video, or running applications. This includes tablets, laptops, iPads, e-readers, cameras, portable gaming devices and wireless earbuds.

School-Issued Device: A device provided by Repton Dubai for educational purposes, subject to the school's network and usage controls.

Personally-Owned Device (BYOD): A device belonging to a student or parent, brought onto the school campus. The use of personally-owned devices is subject to this policy at all times.

School Day: The period from when a student arrives on the school campus to when they leave, including break times, lunch times and after-school activities.

3. Mobile Phone Rules by Phase

Repton Dubai operates a clear and phase-appropriate mobile phone policy. The rules below are non-negotiable and apply throughout the school day. The school's approach is consistent with KHDA guidance and UAE Ministry of Education directives on mobile phone use in schools.

The Core Rule

Mobile phones must be switched off or set to silent and stored out of sight throughout the school day. Students may not use their mobile phones during lessons, break times or lunch times without explicit permission from a member of staff.

Repton Dubai is a phone-free school during the school day.

Phase/Year Group	Mobile Phone Rule	Rationale
Early Years (FS1 & FS2)	Mobile phones are not permitted on site for students at this age. Any device brought in by a parent for handover purposes must remain in the parent's possession at all times.	Children in Early Years do not require a mobile phone. Parent communication is managed through SeeSaw and the school office.
Junior School (Years 1–6)	Mobile phones must be handed to the class teacher in a named, sealed envelope at the start of the school day and collected at the end of the day. Phones must be switched off during storage.	Research shows that phones distract from learning and play in primary-age students. Phones should not be needed during the Junior School day.
Senior School (Years 7–11)	Mobile phones must be switched off or placed on silent and stored in the student's bag or locker from arrival to dismissal. Phones must not be visible in corridors, classrooms, the dining hall or common areas. They may be used only outside the school gates before and after the school day.	Supports concentration, reduces social comparison, prevents distraction and protects the wellbeing of all students during the school day.
Sixth Form (Years 12–13)	Sixth Form students may use their mobile phones during designated free periods in the Sixth Form common room only, and not in classrooms, the library or shared study	Sixth Form students are preparing for university and adult life. Measured independence is appropriate,

	spaces. Phones must be stored away during all timetabled lessons.	with the expectation of mature, responsible use.
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3.1 Smartwatches and Wearable Technology

Smartwatches and wearable devices with internet connectivity, messaging or recording capabilities are subject to the same rules as mobile phones. Students must deactivate any wireless or cellular features during the school day. Wearable devices may be worn but must not be used to access messages, social media, the internet or any communication feature during school hours.

3.2 Yondr Pouches — Senior School (Years 7–13)

To reinforce the phone-free school day and to provide a consistent, structured approach to mobile phone storage, Repton Dubai uses Yondr magnetic locking pouches for all students in Years 7 to 13. Yondr pouches are a proven and widely adopted solution used by schools internationally to eliminate the distraction and harm that can arise from unsecured mobile phone access during the school day.

How the Yondr System Works

- **On arrival:** Each student in Years 7–13 places their mobile phone inside their personal Yondr pouch upon arrival at school. The pouch is then locked using a magnetic locking unit located at the school entrance.
- **During the school day:** Students keep their locked Yondr pouch with them throughout the day. The phone is physically present but completely inaccessible. The pouch cannot be opened without the school's unlocking unit.
- **At dismissal:** Students unlock their pouch at an unlocking station at the school exit at the end of the school day, retrieving their phone as they leave the campus.
- **Free periods (Sixth Form only):** Sixth Form students may unlock their pouch during designated free periods in the Sixth Form common room, using the unlocking station provided, and must re-lock it before returning to lessons.

Yondr Pouch — Student Responsibilities

- Each student is assigned a personal, numbered Yondr pouch at the start of the academic year.
- Students are responsible for the safe keeping of their Yondr pouch at all times. Loss or damage to a pouch may result in a replacement charge.
- Students must not attempt to force open, tamper with, damage or circumvent their Yondr pouch. Any attempt to do so will be treated as a serious breach of this policy and will result in disciplinary action in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy.
- If a student arrives without their Yondr pouch, their phone will be stored securely in the school office for the day and collected at dismissal.
- Students without a mobile phone on a given day should still carry their empty Yondr pouch and lock it as normal.
- Any technical fault with a Yondr pouch must be reported to reception immediately upon arrival.

Yondr Pouch — Parent Information

- Parents will be provided with a Yondr information pack at the start of the academic year explaining the system and its benefits.
- Parents are asked to support the school by reminding their child to bring their Yondr pouch each day.
- If a child has a medical device or requires access to a specific application for health or inclusion reasons, parents should contact the school in writing before the start of term so that an appropriate individual arrangement can be made with the Head of Year and the Inclusion team.
- Yondr pouches have been selected in line with KHDA guidance and reflect the school's commitment to student wellbeing, focus and mental health.

Why Repton Dubai Uses Yondr Pouches

- Eliminates distraction and improves concentration during lessons and independent study.
- Reduces anxiety and social pressure associated with social media access during the school day.
- Prevents cyberbullying, unauthorised photography and the misuse of messaging apps on campus.
- Creates a more purposeful and present school community during break and lunch times.
- Aligns with growing evidence and international best practice on the impact of mobile phones on adolescent wellbeing and academic outcomes.
- Supports UAE government and KHDA directives on responsible technology use in schools.

3.3 Emergency Contact

In the event of a genuine emergency, students may contact a parent or guardian through the school reception. Parents wishing to contact their child urgently during the school day should call the school office directly. The school cannot be responsible for students' personal devices during the school day.

4. School-Issued and Personally-Owned Devices

4.1 School-Issued Devices (iPads, Laptops and Chromebooks)

Repton Dubai provides students with access to school-issued devices as part of the learning programme. These devices are school property and are subject to the school's network controls and acceptable use requirements at all times. Students and parents are required to sign a Device Agreement before a school device is issued.

- School-issued devices must be used solely for educational purposes during the school day.
- Students are responsible for the safe storage, care and return of any school-issued device.
- Any damage, loss or theft of a school-issued device must be reported to the class teacher or IT team immediately.
- Students must not attempt to bypass, disable or circumvent any school network filter, monitoring system or security control.

- School-issued devices must not be used to access, store or share any content that violates this policy.

4.2 Personally-Owned Devices (BYOD)

In certain year groups and subjects, students may be permitted to bring their own device to school for use in specific lessons when directed by a teacher. The use of personally-owned devices is subject to the same acceptable use expectations as school-issued devices. The school is not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of any personally-owned device brought onto the campus.

- Personally-owned devices may only be used in lessons when explicitly invited to do so by a teacher.
- Students must not access personal accounts, social media, games or non-educational content on a personally-owned device during the school day.
- Parents should ensure that appropriate parental controls are in place on any personally-owned device.
- The school reserves the right to inspect a device if there is reasonable cause to believe it has been used in a way that breaches this policy.

5. Acceptable Use of Digital Devices

All students at Repton Dubai are expected to use digital devices — whether school-issued or personally-owned — in a responsible, ethical and purposeful manner. The following principles define acceptable and unacceptable use.

Acceptable Use	Unacceptable Use
Using a device for teacher-directed learning activities.	Using a device for personal entertainment, gaming or social media during the school day.
Researching, writing, creating and collaborating on school tasks.	Accessing, creating or sharing violent, inappropriate, offensive or illegal content.
Using school-approved platforms and applications (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Seesaw, Google Classroom).	Attempting to bypass the school's internet filter or network security.
Communicating with teachers and peers for educational purposes through approved channels.	Using a device to cheat, plagiarise or engage in academic dishonesty.
Saving, organising and submitting schoolwork through approved platforms.	Recording, photographing or live-streaming other students or staff without consent.
Using accessibility tools or assistive technology as agreed with the Inclusion team.	Downloading, installing or accessing unauthorised apps, software or VPNs.
Charging a device in a designated area when necessary.	Using a device to harass, bully, threaten or humiliate any member of the community.

6. The Internet, Social Media and Online Conduct

6.1 Internet Use

Access to the internet on the Repton Dubai campus is provided through the school's filtered network. All internet access on school devices is monitored and logged. Students should be aware that any attempt to access blocked or inappropriate content will be recorded and may result in disciplinary action. The school's filtering system is reviewed regularly to ensure it is effective, but no filter is infallible. Students are expected to behave responsibly online regardless of what the filter does or does not block.

6.2 Social Media

Social media platforms — including but not limited to Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, WhatsApp, BeReal and Discord — must not be accessed on any device during the school day. Students should be aware that social media content posted outside of school hours can also be subject to school disciplinary procedures if it:

- Involves, identifies or affects any member of the Repton Dubai community.
- Damages the reputation of the school, staff or students.
- Constitutes cyberbullying, harassment, discrimination or threats.
- Involves the non-consensual sharing of images or information about another person.
- Violates UAE federal law or KHDA guidelines.

Repton Dubai strongly encourages parents to monitor their child's social media activity and to ensure that their child uses social media in an age-appropriate and responsible way at home.

6.3 WhatsApp and Messaging Applications

WhatsApp and similar messaging platforms may not be used on school devices or personally-owned devices during the school day. Class or group WhatsApp chats that include Repton Dubai students — whether set up by students or parents — are subject to the same behavioural expectations as any other school communication. The school reserves the right to investigate and act upon incidents of misuse that occur within such groups, particularly where these involve bullying, harassment or the sharing of inappropriate content.

6.4 Online Reputation and Digital Footprint

Students should understand that their digital activity creates a permanent record — a digital footprint — that can have lasting consequences for their reputation, university applications and future careers. Repton Dubai encourages all students to think carefully before posting, sharing or communicating online, and to treat their digital presence with the same care and consideration as their conduct in school.

7. Photography, Recording and Privacy

The right to privacy is fundamental and the school takes seriously its obligations under UAE law and KHDA policy in relation to the capture and use of images and recordings.

Photography and Recording — Key Rules

- Students must not take photographs, record video or audio, or live-stream any person on the school campus without their explicit prior consent.
- Recording in changing rooms, bathrooms or any other private space is strictly prohibited and may constitute a criminal offence under UAE law.
- Students must not post images or recordings of staff, students or school premises on social media or any public platform without the prior written consent of the school.
- Parents visiting the school for events, sports days or productions may photograph their own child but must not photograph or record other students without parental consent.
- Any accidental capture of another person in an image or recording must not be shared without the consent of those pictured.
- Staff may photograph or record students solely for educational, safeguarding or school communication purposes in accordance with the school's data protection and photography policies.

The non-consensual recording, sharing or distribution of images of any person — particularly intimate or embarrassing images — is a serious safeguarding and legal matter. Any such incident will be treated as a potential child protection case and referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately.

8. Cyberbullying

Repton Dubai has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of bullying, including cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined as the deliberate, repeated use of digital technology to harm, harass, intimidate, threaten, humiliate or exclude another person. It can occur through social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, email or any other online channel.

Examples of cyberbullying include, but are not limited to:

- Sending threatening, abusive or humiliating messages to another person.
- Creating fake profiles, accounts or personas to impersonate or mock someone.
- Sharing embarrassing, intimate or private images or videos without consent.
- Deliberately excluding someone from online groups or conversations.
- Posting derogatory comments about a person's appearance, identity, religion, race or sexuality.
- Encouraging others to target or gang up on a specific person online.

Cyberbullying that occurs outside school hours is still subject to school disciplinary procedures if it involves members of the Repton Dubai community. All reported incidents will be investigated by the relevant Head of Year and the DSL, and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. The school will also support the victim and, where appropriate, involve parents and external agencies, including the police.

9. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Academic Integrity

Repton Dubai recognises that Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools — including large language models, image generators and AI writing assistants — are increasingly accessible and part of students' daily lives. The school's approach to AI is guided by the principles of academic integrity, ethical use and the development of students' own critical thinking and independent skills.

Repton Dubai's AI Principles

- **AI as a learning tool:** AI may be used to support research, generate ideas, explain concepts or check understanding, when explicitly permitted by the teacher.
- **Academic integrity:** Submitting AI-generated text, images or code as a student's own work — without acknowledgement and without teacher permission — constitutes academic dishonesty and will be treated as plagiarism.
- **Transparency:** Where AI tools have been used in the preparation of work, students must disclose this clearly and in accordance with teacher and examination board guidance.
- **Examination compliance:** The use of AI tools is strictly prohibited in any formal internal or external examination. Breach of this rule may result in disqualification and reporting to the relevant examination board.
- **Critical engagement:** Students should approach AI-generated content critically, understanding that AI can produce inaccurate, biased or incomplete information.

The school will update its guidance on AI use as technology and examination board regulations evolve. Staff will provide subject-specific guidance on when and how AI tools may be used within coursework and assessment.

10. Responsibilities

10.1 Senior Leadership Team

- To ensure this policy is implemented consistently and fairly across the school.
- To provide staff with training and guidance on digital safety, AI and online conduct.
- To review and update this policy annually in response to technological change, KHDA requirements and school experience.
- To oversee the school's network, filtering and monitoring systems.
- To lead on serious safeguarding matters arising from the misuse of technology.

10.2 Teachers and Staff

- To model responsible and professional use of technology at all times.
- To enforce this policy consistently and to challenge any breach they witness.
- To use digital devices only for professional and educational purposes during the school day.
- To maintain professional boundaries on social media and never to connect personally with students or parents on private social media accounts.

- To report any concerns about a student's online conduct or wellbeing to the relevant Head of Year or DSL promptly.
- To integrate digital safety education into their subject teaching where relevant.
- To direct students to approved platforms and tools, and to provide clear guidance on when and how technology may be used in their lessons.

10.3 Students

- To follow the mobile phone and digital device rules for their phase at all times.
- To use digital devices and the internet responsibly, ethically and in accordance with this policy.
- To treat all members of the school community with respect online as well as in person.
- To report to a trusted adult any incident of cyberbullying, inappropriate content or concerning online conduct — whether affecting themselves or another student.
- To protect their own and others' personal information and privacy online.
- To take care of any school-issued device and to return it in good condition.
- To accept the consequences of any breach of this policy.

10.4 Parents and Guardians

- To read, understand and support this policy and its expectations.
- To ensure their child arrives at school each day following the relevant phase rules for mobile phones.
- To contact the school office — not their child's personal device — during the school day if they need to communicate with their child.
- To monitor their child's use of social media, messaging apps and the internet at home and to set appropriate parental controls.
- To raise any concerns about their child's online wellbeing with the school promptly.
- To model responsible digital behaviour at home and to support the school's values around technology use.
- To ensure personally-owned devices are charged and ready for school when a BYOD lesson has been indicated.

11. Consequences and Confiscation

11.1 Confiscation of Devices

If a student is found to be in breach of this policy — for example, by using a mobile phone during the school day without permission — the device may be confiscated by any member of staff. The confiscated device will be held securely in the school office and returned to the student at the end of the school day. In cases of repeated breach or serious misuse, the device will only be returned to a parent or guardian in person.

Confiscation Procedure

- **First instance:** Device confiscated and held in the school office. Returned to the student at the end of the school day. Behaviour recorded on iSAMS.
- **Second instance:** Device confiscated and held until collected by a parent or guardian in person. Parent contacted by Form Tutor or Head of Year. B2 issued on iSAMS.
- **Third instance or serious misuse:** Device confiscated. Parent meeting arranged. Possible ban on bringing a device to school. Referred to SLT. Higher-level behaviour sanction applied.
- **Illegal content or serious safeguarding concern:** Device may be retained by the school pending investigation. DSL and, where appropriate, the police will be involved. Parents informed. Possible suspension or expulsion.

11.2 Searching Devices

In accordance with Section 10 of the Positive Behaviour Policy, school staff are empowered to search a student's personal property — including the content of a digital device — where there is a reasonable belief that illegal content or content harmful to the student or others is present. Any such search will be conducted under the direction of the Principal, and with parental consent where possible. Illegal content discovered during a search will be reported to the police.

11.3 Escalation to the Behaviour Policy

Breaches of this policy will be treated in accordance with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. The level of consequence will be proportionate to the nature and severity of the breach. Serious breaches — including cyberbullying, the sharing of explicit images, harassment or the possession of illegal content — are classified as B4 behaviour and may result in suspension or expulsion.

12. Links with Other Policies

This Mobile and Digital Device Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Repton Dubai policies:

- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Attendance, Punctuality, Absence and Late Collection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Data Protection and Privacy Policy
- Photography and Video Policy

Policy Details

Policy Name: Mobile and Digital Device Policy

School: Repton Dubai

Academic Year: 2026–27

Last Reviewed: August 2026

Next Review Date: August 2027**Approved by:** Senior Leadership Team