

MOBILE PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to create a calm, focused, and distraction-free learning environment by removing mobile phones from the school day entirely. All students are required to store their phones in secure, school issued, locked pouches from arrival until the end of the school day. This approach ensures that learning is uninterrupted, social interactions are more meaningful, and students are fully present in lessons and around school. It reflects our commitment to high standards, wellbeing, and a culture where every student can thrive without digital distractions.

Phones or wearable smart devices (watches, airpods etc) are not to be used during school. Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. It is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day.

Start of the Day

As students arrive to school they will:

- 1) Turn their phone off.
- 2) Open their Pouch via one of the unlocking stations
- 3) Place their phone inside the Pouch and secure it in front of school staff by the white gates.
- 4) Store it in their backpack for the day.

End of the Day

Students will:

- 1) Leave via the white gates
- 2) Open their Pouch via one of the unlocking stations
- 3) Remove their phone
- 4) Close their Pouch (Important to stop the pin bending in the bag)
- 5) Keep in their school bag overnight.

Late Starters

Students arriving late will pouch their phones in the reception area which will be checked by a member of staff.

If a student does not have their Pouch with them

Students will be asked to hand over their phone and it will be locked in the safe in reception. They will receive a "school ready" detention as this is part of their equipment. They can collect their phone no earlier than 3.40pm from reception.

If a student does not have a phone with them, then this will be verified with a bag search and screen using "wands" that can scan for phones.

Early Leavers

Students will sign out via reception and then unlock their pouch at one of the unlocking stations.

INFRINGEMENTS

Pouches will be checked to make sure they have not been damaged

Pouch Damage or Lost Pouch

If a student damages or loses their Pouch, we will collect the phone and students can collect at 3.40pm. A fee of £15 will be charged for a replacement Pouch.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped fabric
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap
- Damage to the black ball
- Pouch opens without unlocking station

Phone seen or heard during School

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside a Yondr pouch, the phone will be confiscated, and a 2 hour detention will be issued. Failure to attend this detention could result in suspension.

Students would be searched in accordance with our procedures outlined in the behaviour policy if they refuse to hand over the phone or it is suspected they have an additional device outside of the Academy issued phone pouch.

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, students will be asked to hand over their phone and it will be locked in the safe in reception. They will receive a “school ready” detention as this is part of their equipment. They can collect their phone no earlier than 3.40pm from reception.

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered Lost.

Refer to the Lost Pouch policy above.

Unlocking Stations

If a student is found in possession of a Yondr unlocking station, or a similar strength magnet used to unlock the pouches, this will be considered a serious offence and could lead to a suspension.

Accidental Damage

Notify the school immediately explaining what happened. If any damage is spotted at a pouch check it will be considered intentional unless the student has raised it previously.

Persistent Breaches

If a student is found to have breached the phone policy on more than one occasion, then subsequent breaches may result in their phone being confiscated and held in the safe for 3 school days.