



MOBILE PHONE and other WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY POLICY & GUIDELINES

This Policy was approved by:

- The Full Trust Board September 2025
- Date for Review: September 2026

Mobile Phones are not to be used during school. Smart watches, which have the functionality to be used as a phone are not allowed in school. Other wearable technology like Air Pods are also not allowed in 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. Phones must be placed in the pouch; sanctions apply if a phone is seen during the school day. Smart watches and other wearable technology such as air pods can also be placed in the pouches, sanctions will apply if students are found to be with these and they will be confiscated.

Rationale:

Mobile phones and increasingly wearable technology are part of modern society, and the majority of students will now own a mobile phone and may also have other wearable technology such as a smart watch or Air Pods. We understand that for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone in order to contact parents/carers after school/before school. However, mobile phones and other wearable technologies can lead to several problems in school, for example bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate web usage. As a result, the use of mobile phones and other wearable technologies during school hours is completely forbidden, and students found using this technology during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Purpose:

1. To clarify the school position on mobile phones and other wearable technology.
2. To ensure that staff, students and parents are fully conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
3. To support our behaviour management policy, which aims for outstanding behaviour and safety of students across the school.
4. To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised.

DAILY PROCESS

Beginning of the Day

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

As students arrive to school they will:

- 1) Turn their phone off.
- 2) Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base.
- 3) Place their phone inside the Pouch, securing the pouch in front of school staff. Other wearable technology can also be placed in the pouch.
- 4) Store it in their school bag or blazer pocket for the day.

End of the Day

As students leave school they will:

- 1) Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base.
- 2) Remove their phone and other wearable technologies if applicable.
- 3) Close their Pouch (Important to stop the pin bending in their bag).
- 4) Keep in their school bag overnight.

Late Starters or Early Leavers

Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones, watch, air pods at reception or the Attendance Office.

Pouch Damage or Lost Pouch

If a student damages or loses their Pouch, the student's phones will be confiscated, and a sanction will be applied. Consequences may include: Detention / Internal Exclusion / Suspension.

Checks will be made of the pouches.

There will be a charge of £20 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

When a phone is confiscated, it will be stored in a case in the school safe and parents will be notified by the school office. Parents have the option to collect the phone at the end of the day. If this happens, the following day, students must hand their phone back-in. If parents do not collect the phone, the phone will remain in school until the end of the week.

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, their phone will be confiscated. Please refer to the 'Lost Pouch' section above.

Phone seen during School

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside a Yondr pouch, a smart watch or air pods, the items will be confiscated, and a consequence will be issued. This is likely to be a suspension for 2 days.

Student claims not to have a phone during the morning check-in

The student will be searched and wanded with a handheld scanner by a member of SLT. If they are found to have their phone on their person they will be expected to hand it in or place in their pouch. Refusal will be met with a sanction, most likely suspension from school.

Random checks

Random searches and checks will take place to enforce the policy.

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 will 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.

Year 11

As a privilege, Year 11 will be able to unlock their phones as they go off site at lunchtime; however, they will be expected to put their phones back into their pouches when they return to school for period 5. They will face a sanction if caught using their phone once back in school. Phones will be confiscated until the end of the week and as per our previous mobile phone policy;

- Confiscated phones will be taken to reception where the phone will be secured in a case the school safe.
- Students who are seen using their phone in school will be given a Behaviour Point. Parents will be alerted to the phone confiscation via the school office.
- Parents will have the option collect the phone at the end of the day. The following day students must hand their phone back-in.

Wider guidelines about mobile phone use in the school environment

- At the end of the school day students will be able to unlock their pouches. Once pouches are unlocked, students are allowed to use their phone to contact home relating to safety/transport home or following involvement in an after school activity such as drama, music or sporting activity. In this instance staff should allow students to use their phone on the school site if this is appropriate
- For their own safety, students must not use their phone to listen to music if they are cycling to school. Students should also be mindful of traffic and dangerous situations if using their phone when walking to and from school.
- Parents are responsible for their child's use of their phone outside of school and any issues resulting from the phone when it is used by a 'minor'. When issues with mobile phones exist that involve serious misuse of the phone, transmitting images, cyber bullying etc; parents will be brought into school and the Malicious Communications Act will be explained to them.
- Staff are not permitted to use their mobile phones in public areas, unless using their phone to take a register (eg PE staff) or in the case of emergencies. In offices and shared workspaces staff can use their mobile phones.
- On trips if staff use their phone to take photographs for school social media purposes, the photographs must be deleted once the trip returns to school. The trip leader must ensure that this takes place.
- Visitors are not allowed to use their mobile phones on school site.

This policy also relates to:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Cyber-bullying policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-bullying policy