

# Aylesford School

## Mobile Phone Policy

### Yondr

**DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMITTEE**

| <b>Ratified/Reviewed by...</b> | <b>Date</b>  | <b>Date to be reviewed</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Local Governing Committee      | October 2026 | October 2027               |

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# Rationale

At Aylesford School, we're committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities, but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Our goal is to promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment whilst encouraging responsible use of technology.

Whilst mobile phones are a useful accessory in 21st century Britain, we are finding that the dependency that students have towards their devices is detrimental to their education and to their emotional well-being. The government has recognised this and issued non-statutory guidance [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#) that prohibits the use of mobile phones through the School Day.

We believe that phones have great utility, but we have also found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. To allow our students to be cognitively active and to allow them a small period of the day where face to face communication trumps any other form of communication, we will be making our School a phone-free space using a system called Yondr.

Yondr has been implemented in over 1,500 schools to facilitate an engaged learning environment. Other local schools have adopted this approach with great success, and the students in these schools have been overwhelmingly positive about the experience.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student who brings their phone to school will secure their phone in their own Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. The Pouch helps foster social interaction, improve focus on learning, and reduce stress associated with phone use, all while maintaining communication for families during travel to and from the school.

# Guidelines

Our School is a phone-free community. Each student who chooses to bring a phone to school will be required to have Yondr Pouch, and they are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in good working condition. Mobile phones, are to be stored in Yondr Pouches and not to be used or seen during the School Day.

If a student wants to bring a mobile phone into the School, they must have their own Yondr pouch and it is each student's responsibility to bring their pouch with them to the School every day. They must 'pouch' their phone by placing inside the pouch and locking it.

## Daily Process

As students arrive to the School, they will:

Turn their mobile phone off as they enter the school gates and ensure their phone is out of view until line up

1. At line up, students will be required to unlock their Yondr pouches if not already unlocked to ensure mobile device is inside pouch
2. Students then place their phone in their Yondr pouch under the supervision of mentors and progress leaders
3. Store it in their bag for the day.
4. During the day, students can expect checks from teachers and senior staff\*
5. At the end of the day, students will open their pouch at an unlocking station, remove their phone, and place their pouch in their bag under supervision.

\* Regular bag searches will be scheduled to ensure students are following this policy, supported by the use of electric search wands.

\*\* Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch / unpouch their phones in the main school reception.

# Procedures and Sanctions

## Phone Use During the School Day

If a student is found in possession of a **phone** on school site, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. The student found in the possession of the phone will be placed in the our schools isolation room and parents/carers will be contacted. Students will be responsible for collecting their device from the main office at the end of School Day.

Bag searches may be conducted if teachers have concerns that a student has a mobile device on them that hasn't been placed into their pouch.

Students that repeatedly breach this policy will face escalated sanctions, parents/carers will meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss next steps.

## Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, the student's phone will be collected at morning line up and securely stored in the main office until the end of the day.

If the pouch is lost then a new £10 deposit required to be paid via parent pay.

## Damaged Pouches

Any attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a serious offence and be sanctioned in line with the schools behaviour policy.

If accidental damage occurs, students must report it immediately. If damage is discovered during checks and has not been reported, it may be considered intentional.

The following examples may indicate intentional damage:

- ❖ Ripped or cut fabric
- ❖ Bent or cut pin
- ❖ Signs of force to the black locking mechanism
- ❖ Pen marks inside the pouch
- ❖ Pouch opening without a station
- ❖ Scuff marks on the black ball



**The pouch should not be used as a replacement for a protective case and/or screen protector on a mobile device.**

## **Exemptions for students with medical conditions**

Upon receipt of appropriate medical evidence confirming that a mobile phone is required for medical reasons (for example, to manage diabetes), a 'medical pouch' will be issued. Medical pouches are identical in appearance to standard pouches but do not have a locking mechanism. Instead, they feature an alternative Velcro opening, allowing the wearer to access their mobile phone when required for medical purposes.

## **Trips and Visits**

Trip and visit leaders must consider and plan for mobile phone supervision. This should feature in risk assessment and planning. The duration and nature of the visit will determine whether it is sensible and practical to allow limited access or totally restrict through the use of pouches. International residentials will need a different approach to local day trips.

Trip leaders should plan for and include details in the letter as to whether students would be allowed access to mobile phones and at what point.

Yondr pouches should be utilised, and trip leaders can take unlocking devices with them on the trip.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if I want to reach my child during the School Day?**

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office on **01622 717341**

### **What if there is an School emergency?**

In case of an School emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our School emergency procedure.

### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire School Day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their bags where it is completely safe. There is a little corded hook attached to the pouch that students could use to zip-tie their pouches into their bag. If a student decides to bring in their device and place in pouch they are fully responsible for this.

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership team every year

# Appendix 1 MOBILE PHONE (YONDR) - STUDENT AGREEMENT

## Aylesford School

### Purpose

At Aylesford School we are committed to creating a focused, safe, and positive learning environment. Our phone-free policy is designed to minimise distractions, support student wellbeing, and encourage engagement in School life.

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## 1. Student Expectations

By signing this agreement, I understand and agree that:

### No Phone Use During the School Day

- I will not use my mobile phone at any point during the School Day.
- My phone must be switched off and kept in its Yondr pouch at all times or left at home

### No Use for Learning Activities

- I understand the School does not require smartphone use for lessons or classwork.

### After-School Activities and Trips

- I will follow the same expectations during after-school clubs, educational visits, and School trips, unless advised otherwise

### Responsible Behaviour

- I will not attempt to use or access my phone during the School Day.
  - I will follow all instructions from staff regarding mobile devices.
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## 2. Consequences

- I understand that if I breach this policy, my phone may be confiscated.
  - Further consequences may be applied in line with the School's behaviour policy.
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### 3. Pouch property and replacement policy School Property

- The pouch remains the property of the School for the duration of the student's time at Aylesford School
- The pouch is issued once the deposit is paid. The deposit will be returned once the school has possession of the pouch after a student has left.

#### **Lost or replacement pouches**

- If a student loses or damages their school-issued pouch, a new deposit will be required to be paid.
  - Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from the School every day and keeping it in good condition. Deliberate vandalism/ damage to the pouch will result in loss of deposit.
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### 4. Supporting the Policy

- I understand this policy aims to support safeguarding, learning and focus, and promote positive wellbeing.
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### 5. Agreement

I confirm that I have read and understood the Mobile Phone (Yondr) Policy and agree to follow all expectations.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_