

Yondr Phone Pouch Policy for Schools

Purpose

At CSIA, we are committed to creating a focused and distraction-free learning environment. To support this goal, we have implemented the Yondr phone pouch system. This policy outlines the expectations and procedures for using the Yondr pouches to ensure a safe, productive, and positive experience for all students.

What is Yondr?

Yondr is a simple and effective solution for managing mobile phone use during school hours. Each student will be encouraged to purchase a secure pouch to store their phone, which can be locked and unlocked using specialised Yondr unlocking stations.

Benefits of the Yondr System

- Promotes greater focus, attention, and engagement during class.
 - Encourages social interaction during break times.
 - Reduces distractions and helps maintain a respectful and focused learning environment.
 - Supports student wellbeing and mental health by providing a break from constant digital stimulation.
 - Provides a supportive, distraction-free environment that benefits all students, including those with SEND.
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Policy Guidelines

1. Phone Use on School grounds

- During tutor time or arrival at school, students are required to turn their phone off and place their phone, smart watches and earbuds in the Yondr pouch.
- Phones must remain in the Yondr pouch throughout the school day, including during class time, breaks, and lunch.

2. Locking and Unlocking

- Phones are to be locked in the Yondr pouch during tutor time or at a specified time laid out by the school.
- Unlocking the pouch is only allowed at the end of the school day or in emergency situations, which will be managed by school staff.

3. Emergencies

- In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians can contact the school office or submit a contact us form online. Students will be notified promptly, and appropriate actions will be taken.
- If a student needs to access their phone for an emergency, they can ask a staff member for assistance in resolving the situation. This may involve using the school phones to call parents or guardians as appropriate.

4. Storage and Safety

- Phones should be safely stored in the Yondr pouch and kept on the student's person or in a secure location (such as their locker).
- Students are responsible for their phone's care and the pouch. Any damage to the pouch or attempts to bypass the system will result in consequences as outlined in our behaviour policy..

5. End of Day Procedure

- At the end of the school day, students can unlock their Yondr pouch at designated unlocking stations. Phones may be used after school hours, which is 3.00 pm for years 7-10 and 4.00pm for year 11.

6. Phones on Site

- Students are not permitted to bring a phone on school grounds unless in a Yondr pouch.
- If a student loses their pouch they must buy another pouch at full price.

7. Screening and Searching

- In accordance with DfE guidelines the school may use the scanning wand or conduct searches, if they believe a student has a mobile phone or smartwatch that is not secured in a Yondr pouch.

1. Benefits for Wellbeing and Mental Health

The Yondr system is not only about improving focus and reducing distractions but also about supporting the overall wellbeing and mental health of our students. By limiting phone access during the school day, students benefit in several important ways (points 2-6).

- 2. Reduced Anxiety and Social Pressure:** Constant phone notifications, social media comparisons, and digital interactions can cause anxiety, stress, and social pressure. Yondr helps create a break from these distractions, allowing students to be more present and engaged with their surroundings and peers.
- 3. Encourages Mindfulness and Focus:** Without the pull of their phones, students can better focus on their studies and be more mindful during lessons and activities, which enhances learning and reduces the feeling of being overwhelmed.
- 4. Promotes Healthy Social Interaction:** By creating a phone-free environment, we encourage face-to-face conversations and real-world connections during breaks and lunchtime, helping to build stronger relationships and improve social skills.
- 5. Improved Sleep Patterns:** Less time on phones during the day can lead to healthier sleep habits. Studies have shown that excessive screen time, especially late at night, disrupts sleep cycles, which can negatively impact mood, concentration, and overall mental health.
- 6. Digital Detox:** Yondr allows students to experience a "digital detox," helping them develop healthier relationships with technology, encouraging balance and self-regulation that will benefit them beyond the school environment.

By prioritising mental health through reduced phone usage, we are fostering a more balanced, calm, and focused school environment where students can thrive academically and emotionally.

Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At CSIA, we recognise that some students with SEND may have specific needs related to their use of mobile phones or other digital devices. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to ensure that all students can benefit from the Yondr system while also receiving the support they require.

Here's how the Yondr policy can support SEND students:

- **Reduction of Overstimulation:** Some students with SEND, particularly those with conditions such as ADHD or autism, may be more susceptible to overstimulation from constant phone use or notifications. The Yondr pouch creates a phone-free environment that can help reduce sensory overload and support concentration.
- **Encouraging Routine and Focus:** Students with SEND often benefit from structured routines. The Yondr system helps to establish clear expectations around phone use, which can create a sense of consistency and predictability, supporting students in staying focused on their schoolwork.
- **Minimising Social and Emotional Pressures:** For some students with SEND, managing social interactions online can be overwhelming. By limiting phone use during school hours, we aim to alleviate some of the social pressures that can arise from constant connectivity, helping students to engage more comfortably in face-to-face interactions.

Reasonable Adjustments

We understand that there may be individual circumstances where access to a mobile phone during school hours is necessary due to a student's SEND or other related needs. In such cases, reasonable adjustments will be made. These may include:

- **Allowing Phone Use for Medical or Emotional Support:** If a student requires access to their phone for medical reasons (e.g., managing a health condition) or emotional support (e.g., to contact a parent/guardian, in specific situations), the school will work with parents/guardians to create an appropriate plan. This plan may involve allowing supervised access to the phone for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes) or the year team contacting home.
- **Use of Assistive Technology:** In cases where a student relies on their phone for assistive technology (such as text-to-speech apps, accessibility features, or communication aids), the school will consider alternative solutions, such as an iPad.
- **Personalised Access Plans:** For students with significant SEND needs that require special consideration, a personalised plan can be developed in collaboration with the school's SEND team, parents/guardians, and the student. These plans will outline when and how support can be given (e.g. a phased time to adjust and supporting students with locking and unlocking), ensuring that the student's individual needs are met while maintaining the integrity of the Yondr system.

Parents/guardians of students with SEND who believe their child may need specific adjustments related to phone use should contact the school's SEND Coordinator or the school office to discuss potential adjustments.

Consequences for Non-Compliance

- Students found tampering with their Yondr pouch, using their phone during school hours, or violating this policy in any way will be subject to the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Repeated violations may result in further restrictions on phone use, parent meetings, or other appropriate actions as determined by school leadership.
- Any student found with a phone outside of a Yondr pouch will have the phone confiscated and a parent will need to attend a meeting where the phone will be returned. Students will be sanctioned under the school's behaviour policy.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the Yondr phone pouch policy or need clarification, please contact the school by using our contact us page:

<https://www.cambornescience.co.uk/contact-us/>