Respect Resilience Responsibility

Mobile Phone Policy

Date: July 2026

Review Date: July 2027

Background

At Woodlands, 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. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone policy that incorporates the Yondr programme https://www.overyondr.com/.

We believe that every student deserves the chance to experience a phone-free education. Yondr pouches provide a simple and secure way of supporting this approach across our school. This approach provides a balanced solution, ensuring young people retain possession of their phones while minimising distractions

during school hours. 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 school.

Student Phone Policy & Guidelines

Our school is a phone-free community. Each student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch and they are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in good working condition. **Phones and wearable tech will be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until the end of the school day.**

Daily Process

Upon arrival, students will:

1) Turn their phone off.
2) Place their phone and any wearable technology inside their Yondr pouch and lock it **in the presence of school staff**.
3) Keep the pouched phone with them throughout the school day, and store it in their bag.

At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouch, retrieve their phone and tech, and re-close the pouch to protect the locking mechanism from damage. Pouches must be brought to and from school each day.

Note: Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or unpouch their phones in Reception.

Procedures and Sanctions

Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals

Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or unpouch their phones and wearable tech at the main school reception or in the late room.

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected and securely stored in a safe in Reception and a same day detention issued. Students will not be able to collect the phone unless the detention is completed. Parents/carers will be contacted through Class Charts. After 5 consecutive days without a pouch, we will assume that the pouch is lost and a replacement fee of £20 will be charged to parents/carers.

Phone Use During the School Day

If a student is found in possession of a phone **outside of their pouch** on school site, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the safe in Reception. The students will immediately be placed in our Reflective Educational Provision (previously known as IE) and complete a full day starting from when they go in. If the student refuses to hand over their phone, then a fixed term suspension will be issued and a reintegration meeting the following day with parent/carer. The phone will only be able to be collected by the parent/carer. Repeated incidents will result in stepped up sanctions.

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

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**, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £20. The device will be confiscated and students will receive a fixed term suspension. The phone will only be able to be collected by the parent/carer following a reintegration meeting.

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 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.

Emergencies and Safeguarding

Communications During the School Day

Parents/ carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via Reception on 02380463303. We will then pass this message onto your child.

Medical Conditions

Students who require access to their mobile devices for specific medical purposes will be provided with a medical pouch. These medical conditions include but are not limited to: Diabetes type 1, medical impacts and the use of pacemakers. Please email nicola.iverson@woodlands.southampton.sch.uk should your child require a medical pouch because their mobile is used to support a medical condition.

Students without mobile phones or electronic devices

If your child does not own a mobile phone or electronic device, or you do not allow them to bring them to school, please ensure that you have informed the school. Prior to 5th September 2026, there is a google form to fill in however, after this date, please contact your child's Year Team. A pass will be issued on class charts and they will be given a physical pass to show staff checking.

Emergency Procedures

In an emergency, the priority is for students to follow school safety procedures under staff guidance. Unauthorised phone use during such situations may:

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Put students and staff at increased risk
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding measures

Emergency communications will be managed through the school. In the event of an evacuation and students unable to return into the building, a portable unlocking station will be taken with us to unlock pouches.