
Weston Secondary School's Student Mobile Phone Policy 2026-2028

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Next review date	July 2028		

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Introduction

To support our students' mental health and wellbeing, engagement in learning and academic progress, mobile phones are not permitted during school hours. This is in line with the DfE statutory guidance 'Mobile Phones in Schools' (June 2026).

Weston Secondary School is a mobile phone-free environment. Students will not have access to mobile phones or other personal smart devices during the school day, including lesson time, movement between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes, unless an authorised exception has been agreed.

For the purposes of this policy, mobile phones include smart watches, smart glasses, communication-enabled earbuds and any personal device capable of sending or receiving messages, notifications, calls, photographs, audio or video recordings.

Weston Secondary School staff are keen to provide an environment where students can thrive both personally and academically.

To support this, we use a Yondr phone pouch system. Yondr has surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance

- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- 86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness

Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate an engaging learning environment. Many local secondary schools have implemented this system with a positive impact on their school community.

Process

Phones 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.

The table below outlines the daily Yondr pouch process.

Start of the day	End of the day
As students arrive to school they will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn off their phones 2. Open the pouch using the unlocking base. 3. Place their switched off mobile phone inside the pouch and secure it in front of school staff. 4. Store it in their bag for the day. 	As student leave school they will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open the pouch. 2. Remove their phone. 3. Close the pouch (important to stop the pin bending). 4. Keep the pouch in their school bag overnight.
Early arrival students on school site before roll call will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pouch their phone at breakfast club at 8am Late arrivals, between 8.25am - 8.50am will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pouch their phone at late gate Late arrivals after 8.50am will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pouch their phone at reception Early leavers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Un-pouch their phone at reception 	

Student support

We recognise that there may be emergency situations where parents and or carers need to get in contact with their child. Parents/Carers are advised to contact main reception on 02380 447820. A message will be passed to the child.

We also recognise that students, in an emergency, may need to get hold of parents or carers. Students will be supported to contact home via main reception or via a member of the pastoral team.

Medical needs and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that some students may require adaptations to this policy due to a medical condition, disability, EHCP, safeguarding plan or other identified need.

Any reasonable adjustment will be agreed on an individual basis and recorded appropriately. Adjustments will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain appropriate whilst maintaining the school's mobile phone-free environment.

To support students with medical needs they will be provided with a different style of phone pouch. This pouch will enable them to access their phone as needed during the day to support their medical needs. Students must ensure they are using their pouch correctly. Should a child's medical needs change during the year it is important that the school is made aware. Please contact the school's SENCO to advise of any significant changes; contact details are available on our website [here](#).

Violations

It is the student's responsibility to check their pouch on issue. Students must alert staff immediately of any damage. Yondr pouches will be frequently checked for damage during daily spot checks.

Accidental damage

If damage is spotted during a pouch check it will be considered intentional unless the student has raised the issue previously.

If damage occurs during the school day it is the student's responsibility to notify a member of staff about the nature of the damage.

Loss of pouch or damage to pouch

Parents/carers may be charged for the replacement cost of a damaged or lost pouch in accordance with the school's charging arrangements.

If a student loses or damages a pouch the following will happen;

- A member of on call staff will collect the phone and pouch.
- A member of staff will contact home instructing the parent/carer to collect the phone.
- Student will be sanctioned accordingly in line with the behaviour policy. This may include a set amount of time in SLT supervision at the discretion of SLT.

Examples of damage:

- Pouch opens without the unlocking station
- Sign of force
- Torn
- Cut
- Ripped fabric
- Cut/bent pin
- Damage to the black ball

- Graffiti

Mobile phone seen during the school day

The mobile phone will be confiscated if it is seen outside of the Yondr pouch. A member of staff will contact home instructing the parent/carer to collect the phone. The student will be sanctioned accordingly in line with the behaviour policy. This may include a set amount of time in SLT supervision at the discretion of SLT. Persistent breaches to the policy may incur a higher level sanction.

Unlocking stations

If a student is found in possession of a Yondr unlocking station, or a similar device used to unlock the pouches, this will be considered a serious offence and could lead to a high level sanction being issued.

Use of Location Tracking Devices

We understand that location tracking devices, such as Apple AirTags and similar products, can provide reassurance to parents and carers, particularly where pupils travel independently to and from school.

However, we are concerned about:

- **Unauthorised tracking:** where a pupil is tracked without their knowledge, or where location information is accessed by a person who does not have appropriate authority to do so. Tracking devices may also inadvertently provide information about the location or movements of other pupils or staff who have not consented to being tracked in this way.
- **Additional functions:** some tracking devices include alarms, two-way communication, microphones, remote listening capability or other functions that may be disruptive and can raise safeguarding, privacy and data protection concerns.
- **Increasing anxiety:** disruptions to expected location data – due to unavoidable changes of route or plan (e.g. on a school trip), loss of a device, poor connectivity or malfunction – can cause anxiety for parents/carers and may also place pressure on pupils and staff who are aware of parental concerns regarding a pupil's location.
- **Safeguarding, privacy and data protection:** the use of location tracking devices in school or during school activities may compromise the privacy of pupils, staff and visitors and may interfere with the school's ability to maintain appropriate safeguarding arrangements.

In line with our approach to mobile phones, pupils may carry a location tracking device when travelling to and from school where parents or carers consider this appropriate.

However, location tracking devices are not to be accessed, activated, monitored or used on school premises, during the school day, on school trips, educational visits, residential visits or at any other school-organised activity unless an exception has been agreed in advance under the arrangements set out below.

Where a pupil brings a location tracking device to school for use whilst travelling to or from school, it must be stored under the same arrangements that apply to mobile phones. The device must not be accessed, activated or used during the school day and should be switched off where this is possible.

Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting the school's mobile phone policy.

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Support the school's mobile phone-free environment.
- Ensure students arrive to school with their Yondr pouch each day.
- Contact the school rather than their child during the school day.
- Support sanctions where students fail to follow the policy.
- Inform the school of any medical or safeguarding circumstances which may require a reasonable adjustment.

Use of Recording Devices

The unauthorised use of any personal device to photograph, record audio, record video or share content relating to members of the school community is prohibited and will be treated as a serious breach of the Behaviour and Expectations Policy.

Additional safeguarding procedures may be followed where appropriate.

Associated Policies

- Behaviour & Expectations Policy

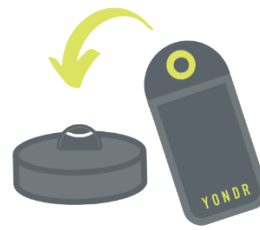
How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

Frequently asked questions

Question	Answer
What if I need to get a message to my child during the day?	Should you need to get a message to your child during the day, please contact main reception on 02380 447820. The message will then be passed to your child. We kindly ask that this is reserved for emergency situations.
What if my child needs to contact me during the day?	Should your child need to contact you during the day, in an emergency, staff at main reception will support with calling home. The pastoral team can also support with communication.
What if my child doesn't have a phone?	We will issue students with a laminated card detailing they don't have a phone, students must carry this card on them at all times to be shown during spot checks.
What if my child forgets their pouch?	Students will hand their phones in to reception where their mobile phones will be kept securely in a locked cupboard, the student can collect their phone from reception at the end of the day.
What if my child forgets their phone and pouch?	Students will be wanded at the entry gates by school staff and will be given a temporary day pass which needs to be handed back in at the exit gates when leaving.
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 safely in their school bags or jackets.
What if my child stays at an after-school club?	All students who attend after school club will un-pouch their phone at the end of the school day and then attend their club as usual.
What if my child attends breakfast club?	Breakfast club will take place in the gym. Students who arrive onsite will be directed there. At 8am all students at breakfast club will pouch their phones and then head out to roll call as usual.
What if the pouch is damaged or my child is caught on their phone?	Students have been advised to check their pouch on collection to ensure it is in full working order. If damage

	<p>is spotted during a spot check it will be considered intentional unless the student has raised the issue previously.</p> <p>If a student damages their pouch or is caught on their phone, the phone/Pouch will be confiscated by a member of staff and call home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parent/Carer will come to the school and pick up their child's phone ● The student will be sanctioned accordingly in line with the behaviour policy. Persistent breaches to the mobile phone policy may incur a higher level sanction. <p>Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school staff. It is the student's responsibility to alert staff at this point of any damage. Damaged pouches will be billed to parents at a cost of £20.00. Further information can be found in our mobile phone policy.</p>
What if my child refuses to pouch their phone?	Should a student refuse to pouch their phone, the phone will be confiscated and handed to main reception. Parents will be required to collect the phone. Should a student refuse to hand over the phone we will follow the behaviour systems in place. This may result in SLT supervision or suspension from school.
What if my child arrives late to school?	It is very important that all students arrive to school on time. Should your child be late before 8:50am they will sign in via the late gate and pouch their phone. Should your child arrive after 8:50am they will pouch their phone in main reception.
What if my child needs to sign out before the end of the day?	Students who need to sign out from school will go to reception as usual. Staff at reception will support with un-pouching the phone so they can take it home.
What happens if my child forgets to un-pouch their phone	In Yondr's experience, this almost never happens. All students funnel past the unlocking stations at the exits; they want their phones back and don't forget to unlock their pouches. If they do arrive home with a phone in a pouch, they can either come back to school to unlock (during school opening hours) it or have a phone free evening!
How quick is the unlocking process?	The unlocking process is quick and takes under a second per student. While students are still getting used to how to unlock pouches, staff will be on hand with mobile unlocking stations to stop queues forming in the first few weeks. We have installed additional unlocking points around the school exits.