



Maximising our Potential

14th July 2026

Dear Parents/carers,

On the 29th June, the Department for Education released new guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. It is statutory for all schools to follow this guidance from September 2026.

In September, we will be ensuring our school is a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. Yondr has supported schools in more than 40 countries leading to powerful results:

- 86% reported improved safety and student wellness
- 84% saw increased engagement in class
- 44% highlighted reduced behavioral referrals

How the Programme Works

Each student will be assigned a Yondr pouch—a secure, lockable case for storing personal devices. The first one is free to our students. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition in their **school bag**.

- **Upon arrival:** Students turn off all smart technology including their mobile phones, airpods and smart watches. They will place all devices in the pouch, and lock it in front of their teacher.
- **During the day:** Students keep the locked pouch in their **school bag**. **If a student does not have a school bag, they will hand their phone in and it will be stored safely until the end of the day.**
- **At the end of the school day:** Students unlock their pouches at the stations at the front of the school building.

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine.

In September, the school is a phone free site. Any students found with a phone outside of their pouch will receive a serious sanction, most likely a suspension.

With student safety as our top priority, we will follow our standard safety protocols in the event of an emergency. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact our main office on 0151 4778710.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Dobson
Headteacher

How it 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

Morning and Afternoon Procedures

How quick is the unlocking process?

The unlocking process is quick and students typically don't need to break stride. 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. If needed we will add extra unlocking points.

What if my child arrives late or needs to be dismissed early?

The attendance office will have an unlocking device for students to support students arriving late or leaving early.

Will my child's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. They must store the pouch safely in their schoolbag. While the Yondr pouch will provide some protection, it's not a protective case, so students should continue to handle their phones with the same care they normally would to prevent damage.

What happens if a student forgets to open their pouch at the end of the day?

In Yondr's experience, this almost never happens. All students funnel past the unlocking stations at the exits and they typically want their phones back. If they do arrive home with a phone in a pouch, they can either come back to school to unlock it, or have a phone free evening!

What happens if a student forgets to bring in their pouch?

The student's phone will be collected and securely stored in the school office until a parent/carer comes to collect it. If the pouch is repeatedly forgotten, their pouch will be treated as lost and a replacement fee of £15 will be charged. We suggest that students leave the pouches in their school bags and pouches must stay in the locked position when not at school.

Daily Pouch Use

What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?

We have an alternative solution for the small number of students who require their phones for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes). We will be in touch with these families if they have informed us of their medical condition.

My child currently doesn't bring a phone to school, how will this work for them?

Please send an email to admin@kirkbyhighschool.net and we will discuss next steps.

What happens if a phone is seen outside of a pouch?

If a student is found in possession of a phone **outside their pouch** on school site the phone will be confiscated and returned when a parent/carers picks it up.

Bag searches will be conducted if staff have concerns that a student has a mobile phone on them that hasn't been placed into their pouch.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?

Any attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious breach of our behaviour policy**, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £15, confiscation of their device until collected by a parent/carers and a possible suspension.

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**. Students will be provided guidelines to lock their pouch when they leave school to avoid any accidental damage.

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

We will be conducting random pouch/spot checks over the full academic year to assess the condition of pouches.

Emergencies

What if there is a school emergency?

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.