Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Mobile Phone Pouches / Exemption Cards – Response Needed

I'm pleased to share that we introduced mobile phone pouches last term, meaning that as a school we have responded to the change in the law making it a legal requirement that mobile phones are not accessed by students during the school day.

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.

Now that Year 7 students have officially joined us, a response is required to understand your preference for either a mobile phone pouch or exemption card.

A response for every child is needed.

We have drafted a 'Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures' document so that you are aware of our daily processes and expectations, with useful information included at the end of this letter.

I am asking all parents and carers to read the policy and procedures document and complete the short survey by 5.00pm Monday 7th September.

The survey can be accessed by this link or the QR code at the bottom of the letter.

Mobile phone pouch request / Confirmation of no mobile phone in school - Year 7 – Fill in form

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a focused, present, and positive school environment for every student.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher

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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mrs R Hawkes

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Crewkerne & Ilminster Schools Partnership
Work, Play & Learn Together

Frequently Asked Questions

How the Programme Works

Each student will be given a Yondr pouch—a secure, lockable case for storing personal devices. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition. The pouch remains school property with a cost attached if lost, defaced or damaged. Students will return the pouch when they leave Wadham School.

- **Upon arrival:** Students power off all smart technology including their mobile phones, place all devices in the pouch, and lock it before entering the site. Students will show their locked pouches or exemption cards to staff each morning as they pass through the main gate.
- **During the day:** Students keep the locked pouch in their schoolbag or locker.
- **At dismissal:** Students unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices.

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

Staying Connected

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 01460 270123.

Similarly, should a student ever need to contact a parent/carer, this can be done using one of the school's phones. Staff will facilitate this with the student.

Payments in the Canteen

We are encouraging staff and students to move to a Cashless system using fingerprints at the point of sale. We ask that you give consent to this (if you have not already done so) so your child can use this facility as the quickest method of payment in the school canteen.

Contactless payment is also accepted, and there is a pocket in the Yondr Pouch for bank cards.

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.

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

Staff at Reception will have an unlocking device for 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. We will advise students to store the pouch safely in their school bags. 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 go past the unlocking stations at the exit, 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 Reception until the end of the day. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures.

If the pouch is repeatedly forgotten their pouch will be treated as lost and a replacement fee of £20 will be charged.

We suggest that students leave the pouches in their school bags 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?

Parents/carers have declared whether their child will be bringing a phone into school, or not. Where a student does not have a mobile phone, or parents/carers have decided that the phone will remain at home, an exemption card will be given to the student. This exemption card must be carried at all times and shown to staff as part of the morning welcome at the main gate.

My child is a young carer; how do we manage in-day contact?

We understand that young carers have additional responsibilities and at times, may need to check-in with home during the school day. The lockable pouch is still used, but if any student needs to make contact home, then staff in the Hub can help them use one of the school phones. This can be done at agreed times in the day, such as break and lunch. Equally, should a parent need to contact their child, this should be done by contacting staff in Reception, who will pass on the message and (if appropriate) ensure staff are aware so support can be given.

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

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside of a locked Yondr pouch, the phone will be confiscated, and a sanction will be issued in-line with our behaviour policy.

If a student refuses confiscation, then this will be escalated further, in line with the behaviour policy.

Bag checks may be conducted if staff are concerned that a student has a mobile phone on them that hasn't been placed in 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 offence, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £20, confiscation of their mobile phone until collected by a parent and a sanction in line with our 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 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.