

Dear Parents/Carers,

MOBILE PHONE UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

You will be aware that schools have the power to ban phones completely from being brought to school. At The Derby High School, we do not want to do this because we know that many parents/carers would like their child to have a phone with them when travelling to and from school.

At The Derby High School, we allow students to bring phones to school if they remain switched off and out of sight throughout the school day until they leave site at the end of their day (the 'never used, seen or heard' approach).

Despite this approach we still encounter many issues linked to phone use in school. Some students can and do access them when they go to the toilet or during social times. On occasions phones have been used to film or record staff and students. There is also always the risk that phones could even be used to 'live stream' from school.

While we believe that phones have great utility, we know that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and other students. The distraction of social media and the 'doom scrolling' nature of phone use behaviours, is a great concern for schools and parents/carers alike.

We have kept our protocols around mobile phones under review and have completed research into how we may be able to ensure that we are a phone-free space.

As you may be aware some schools in Bury are moving to a 'hand in system' in September and this is one of the routes we explored. Under that system students' hand in their phones each morning by placing them in a locker in a classroom and then collect them from those classrooms at the end of the day. Having looked at all the implications of this system we have decided not to go with this approach

The approach we will be taking in September to make sure our school a phone-free space is a system called [Yondr](#).

Yondr recently 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 behavior
- 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 engaged learning environment. We have visited and spoken with schools who already have this system in place, and we are confident Yondr will have a positive impact at The Derby High School as well.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. One of the key plus points for us using this system is that students still maintain possession of their phones throughout the day, but they will not be able to use them until their pouches are opened once they have left the school building at the end of the day.

As is our current policy, if there is an emergency and parents/carers would like to get in contact with their child, they do so by directly ringing the school.

How it works

Each morning when students arrive at their assigned year group door, they will secure their phone (and smartwatch/EarPods if they have them) in their personally assigned Yondr pouch in the presence of a member of staff. They then place the pouch in their blazer or bag. Students are then responsible for their pouch at all times and are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day.

If your son/daughter does not have a mobile phone, then you will be asked to inform us of this in writing so that they are not delayed on entry to school each day.

We reserve the right to 'wand check' those who claim not to have a phone with them (unless we are already aware that they do not carry a phone to and from school).

If a student forgets or loses their pouch, their phone (and smartwatch/EarPods if they have them) will be collected by staff at the start of the school day and put in a secure wallet and then stored at Student Services for the day.

From September any student seen in possession of a phone, EarPods, smartwatches (not secured in a pouch) during the school day will have the item confiscated, and the item will remain in school until it is collected by a parent or carer. Further infringements of the rule will result in a formal fixed term suspension from school followed by a meeting with parent/carers on return to school at the end of the suspension.

There is a Yondr information leaflet attached to this letter with some frequently asked questions.

[If you have any further questions, please use this link to contact the school directly](#)

We are also hosting drop-in information sessions on Wednesday 9th and Wednesday 16th July 3.30-4.30 pm and you are warmly invited to attend if you would like to hear

more information about our updated practice to ensure our mobile phone ban policy is implemented.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,

How Yondr Works



Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office.

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone, smartwatch, EarPods- in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch safely in their bags or blazer pockets (as they currently do with their phones).

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?

If a student damages their Pouch or is seen in possession of a phone, EarPods or smartwatch we will confiscate the items(s) and call home:

- The item(s) will remain in school until collected by a parent carer.
- Further infringements of the rule will result in a formal fixed term suspension from school
- Damaged pouches will be billed to parents at a cost of £18

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

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 many 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 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 also be on hand with mobile unlocking stations to stop queues forming in the first few weeks. We have 12 fixed unlocking points but if needed, we will add extra unlocking points.