

North Oxfordshire Academy Phone Policy

2026-27 Version 1

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ACADEMY

Review Timetable

The Policy will be reviewed every year, as set out below	
LGB Date of Ratification	29 June 2026
Review Interval	Annually
Date of Last Review	
Date of Next review	1 September 2026
Owner & Attached Governor	Sophie Mcfarlane



At North Oxfordshire Academy 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.veryondr.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

North Oxfordshire Academy 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. This pouch will be numbered, and the number is unique to the student. Phones and wearable technology will be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until the end of the school day.

Daily Process

Upon arrival at the gate/reception, 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**. This will happen at the school gates/reception.
- 3) Keep the pouched phone/wearable technology with them throughout the school day, and store it in their bag.

#Pouch it. Lock it. Bag it

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/student services.

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.

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected and securely stored in the lockbox in the THRIVE office/at reception until the end of the day. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures. Repeated instances will result in the pouch being treated as lost and a **replacement fee of £18** will be charged to parents.

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 THRIVE lockbox/main office. Please see below for consequence escalation:

Incident	Sanction
1st incident - phone found out of pouch.	Phone confiscated by staff. Returned to the student at the end of the school day. Phone call to parent/ carer made
2nd incident - phone found out of pouch.	Phone confiscated. Parent/carers must collect the phone from school at their convenience.
3rd incident - phone found out of pouch.	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).
Refusal to hand over a phone	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).
Refusing to put phone in pouch	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).
Putting a fake phone/object in pouch	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).
Tampered Pouch/Possession of magnet	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).
Refusal for search for a mobile phone/tech	Fixed Term Suspension (FTS).

Should your child choose not to bring a phone to school please email Sophie.mcfarlane@northoxfordshire-academy.org for next steps. Your child may still be subject to spot searches.

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.

Refusal to be searched will result in a fixed term suspension

Damaged Pouches

Any attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious incident and a fixed term suspension will be issued**. This will also result in a replacement fee of £18, confiscation of the device until a parent/guardian picks it up and 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**. Intentional damage will result in fixed term suspension.

The following may indicate intentional damage:

- ❖ Ripped or cut fabric
- ❖ Bent or cut pin
- ❖ Signs of force to the black locking mechanism



- ❖ Pen marks outside or 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 the **school office**. 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 implants and the use of pacemakers.

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.

Useful information Sheet:

Introduction of a Phone-Free School Environment

From September 2026, the Academy will introduce the Yondr Pouch Programme to create a fully phone-free learning environment. This aligns with Department for Education expectations that students should not have access to mobile phones during the school day, including lessons, social times, and movement around school.

Students will place their mobile phones (and smartwatches where applicable) into a locked Yondr pouch on arrival. They will retain possession of the pouch throughout the day and unlock it at designated stations when leaving school.

Why Are We Introducing Yondr?

Research and evidence from schools using Yondr indicate improvements in:

- Student engagement and concentration
- Academic performance
- Social interaction and relationships

- Student wellbeing
- Reduction in safeguarding concerns linked to social media and mobile phone use
- Reduction in cyberbullying during the school day

The initiative supports the Academy's values of Respect, Ambition and Determination by ensuring students are fully engaged in learning and social interaction.

Daily Procedures

- Students arrive with phones switched off or on airplane mode.
- Phones are secured in a Yondr pouch under staff supervision.
- Pouches remain locked throughout the school day.
- Students keep possession of their pouch at all times.
- Pouches are unlocked at designated stations at the end of the school day.

Spot Checks and Compliance Monitoring

To maintain the integrity of the programme:

- Staff will conduct random spot checks throughout the school day.
- Students may be asked to present their pouch for inspection.
- Any evidence of tampering, unauthorised unlocking, use of an alternative phone, or refusal to comply will result in sanctions.
- Regular monitoring will ensure consistency and fairness in implementation.

Sanctions for Non-Compliance

All incidents will be logged on Arbor and parents/carers will be informed by telephone/text message.

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Lost, Damaged or Forgotten Pouches

- Students who forget their pouch will have their phone secured by the school for the duration of the day.
- Persistent failure to bring a pouch may result in replacement charges and further intervention.
- Damaged or deliberately tampered pouches will incur replacement costs and disciplinary action (Fixed term suspension).

Communication with Parents

Parents who need to contact their child during the school day should do so through the school's reception team. Urgent messages will be passed on appropriately.

The aim is to create a calm, focused and inclusive learning environment where students can fully engage with learning and with each other, free from the distractions of mobile technology.



1
CASE



2
LOCK



3
UNLOCK