

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Okehampton College is committed to fostering a focused, respectful, and safe learning environment. To support this, all pupils must keep their mobile phones securely locked in Yondr pouches during the school day. This policy outlines the expectations for phone use, the use of Yondr pouches, and the consequences for violations.

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.

DAILY PROCESS Beginning of the Day

Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day.

- 1) Upon arrival at school, students will open their pouch at an unlocking station
- 2) Turn their phone off / use airplane mode.
- 3) Place their phone inside the Pouch and secure it
- 4) Allow a member of staff to check the pouch as they enter school site
- 5) Store it in their bag for the day.

End of the Day

Students will:

- 1) Open their Pouch
- 2) Remove their phone
- 3) Close their Pouch (Important to stop the pin bending in the bag)
- 4) Keep in their school bag overnight.

Late Starters or Early Leavers

Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/un-pouch their phones at reception– after they have signed in, they will show the member of the administrative staff that their pouch is secured.

If a pupil genuinely forgets their Yondr pouch they must hand their phone in upon arrival at school to the House Hub – the phone must be switched off and will be held until the end of the day when the pupil is free to collect it.

Parental Contact

There will be times that students will want to get hold of parents. If students wish to contact parents then they should do this at social times. They can attend the house hub and they will be allowed to use a landline to call parents. They will not be allowed to unlock their phones and use their mobiles to call or text. If parents want to speak to their child or get a message to them they should call the main school switchboard or contact the house hubs using the ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, or oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk email addresses.

Forgotten Phones

If a student has left their phone at home or that they have forgotten it they may be subjected to a search using a metal detector.

Medical

Some students will need access to their phones due to a medical condition such as diabetes. Students who require this will be given a pouch which means that they are able to use their phone for medical reasons.

School Bag and Equipment

Students need to have a school bag to carry their equipment around school. Students **must** keep their Yondr pouch containing their phones in their school bag at all times during the school day. If a student is seen carrying their Yondr pouch or they have it somewhere else such as a waistband or up their sleeve then their phone and pouch will be confiscated until the end of the school day.

Smart Technology

Students are not allowed to have any Smart Technology on their persons during the school day outside of their Yondr pouch. This includes smart watches, smart glasses, headphones and smart rings. This list is not exhaustive. There are exceptions for students who require this technology for medical reasons and these should be discussed with a student's house leader.

VIOLATIONS

Pouches will be checked to make sure they have not been damaged. If a pupil believes they have accidentally damaged their pouch it is their responsibility to report this immediately.

Pouch accidentally Damaged or Lost

If a student accidentally damages or loses their Pouch, we will collect the pupil's phone and store it for the day at the House Hub & inform parents.

There is a £14 fee for a new pouch to be issued.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped fabric
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Damage to black button on flap
- Damage to the black ball
- Pouch opens without unlocking station

Serious Violations Leading to a Sanction

The following actions will result in an automatic sanction:

1. **Phone out of Yondr pouch during school hours without staff permission.**
2. **Deliberate damage to a Yondr pouch.**
3. **Failure to report an accidentally damaged pouch – leading to the pouch not working properly.**
4. **Causing damage in any way to any of the Yondr unlocking stations.**
5. **Hiding or stealing one of the mobile Yondr unlocking stations.**
6. **Carrying a phone for another pupil at any time during the school day.**
7. **Bringing a second device ('burner phone') into school to evade the Yondr system.**
8. **Attempting to unlock or tamper with the Yondr pouch without authorisation.**
9. **Using equipment (e.g., magnets, pliers, or other tools) to open a Yondr pouch.**

10. **Arriving late to school and not signing in – enabling no member of staff to check the mobile phone is securely in the Yondr pouch & it is locked.**
11. **Not handing in a phone when arriving to school without a Yondr pouch.**
12. **Retrospective evidence that a phone was used in school (including photos, videos, communications, or reliable pupil testimony).**
13. **Initiating communication with their phone from a smart watch.**
14. **Consistently claiming to have forgotten their Yondr pouch. (5+ times in a half term).**
15. **Any other act designed to circumvent the Yondr system and the college's mobile phone expectations.**

The first time a student carries out one of these actions they will receive a one and a half day suspension, the second time a two and a half day suspension. Any further indiscretions will result in a 3 and a half day suspension.

Further Sanctions

- **Repeated violations** following a suspension may result in longer suspensions, a Directed Off Site Schooling (DOSS) arrangement (a child's education being provided at another school).
- **Damage to school property**, including Yondr pouches, may also result in a charge for replacement or repair.
- **Persistent refusal** to comply may result in a Directed Off Site Schooling (DOSS) arrangement (a child's education being provided at another school) or permanent exclusion for persistent disruptive behaviour in line with Okehampton College wider Behaviour and Exclusions Policies.