



Trinity High School

& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Part of Bordesley Multi Academy Trust

Thursday 20th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Mobile Phone Policy – September 2023

Following my initial correspondence in June, I am eager to update you on the new mobile phone policy and the procedures that will be in place from Wednesday 6th September when students arrive at school.

If you recall, in my previous letter, I explained that in our quest to be the most exceptional learning community for our students, we have deeply considered our policy around mobile phones. Whilst mobile phones are a useful accessory in 21st century modern Britain, we are finding that the dependency that students have towards their devices, is wholly detrimental to their education and to their emotional well-being. This is not to say that phones do not have a place in teenagers lives, but at Trinity, in order to allow our HEART values to be lived, to allow our students to be cognitively active and to allow them a small period of the day where face-to-face communication trumps any other form of communication, we will be making our school a phone-free space using a system called Yondr.

Yondr has been implemented in over 1,500 schools across 23 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. There are several other local schools that have adopted this approach with great success, and the students in these schools have been overwhelmingly positive about the experience.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school on **Wednesday 6th September**. Students will 'pouch their phones' when entering the school in the mornings, maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the school gates at 3.10pm. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. The illustration on the following page of the letter gives you a simple indication of how the pouching process works.

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 behaviour
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

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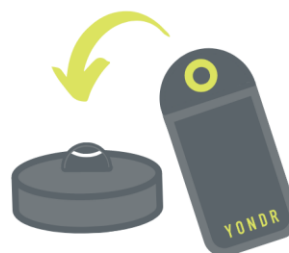
How Yondr Works



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.

On Wednesday 19th July, our students received an educational session from Yondr, selling the benefits of the new policy.

Our new mobile phone approach will be managed through a robust and well publicised mobile phone policy. Our policy will be available on the website very soon and will provide specific guidance for parents/carers and students. Please find below some frequently asked questions which you may find useful.

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 at 01527 585859.

What if students do not pouch their phone and use it in the school day?

If students refuse to pouch their phone and/or use it, their phone will be confiscated and kept in a safe, locked facility. They will be issued with a 40-minute detention on the same day after school which you will be notified about. The student will have their phone returned to them at the end of the 40-minute detention.

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency and Health and Safety policies. It is our job to always safeguard students and contact with parents/carers during a school emergency is unhelpful and can create unnecessary hysteria. We will communicate promptly with parents/carers during any emergency procedures.

Will my student'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 in their backpacks where it is completely safe and out of sight.


What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch is property of Trinity High School. If a student damages their pouch or is caught on their phone, school staff will collect the phone/pouch and call home. Students will be responsible for the cost of a damaged pouch which will be approximately £25.

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.

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback that we have had from parents/carers related to this new policy. Broadly speaking, parents/carers clearly see the benefits of reducing student dependency on their phones and I thank you in advance for your support next academic year in enforcing the policy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Ford', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr N Ford
Headteacher