

POLICY DOCUMENT

MOBILE PHONE POLICY (SENIOR SCHOOL PUPILS)

INCLUDING WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

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Latest Review	
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Introduction

At Hipperholme Grammar School, we're committed to creating a learning environment where every pupil can thrive. The mandatory guidance is that schools should be phone-free spaces. Alongside this, the research is clear: excessive use of mobile phones is strongly linked to sleep disruption, cognitive impairments and poor mental health. 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/>.

Pupil Phone Policy & Guidelines

Our school is a phone-free community. We understand that for practical reasons, some pupils will have their phones with them for their journeys to and from school, so banning phones entirely is not practical. For pupils in the Senior School who choose to bring their phone to school, they will be required to lock it away as they enter the school site in a Yondr pouch. We continue to encourage pupils to leave their phones at home where appropriate.

Daily Process:

Arriving at School

1. Pupils should turn off their phones and remove any wearable technology, such as a smartwatch.
2. Place phone and wearable technology into your Yondr pouch.
3. Lock pouch in front of the teacher on gate duty.
4. Keep locked pouch with them and store it safely in their school bag for the rest of the day.

Leaving School

1. On their way out of school, Pupils must use the unlocking station to open their Yondr pouch.
2. Remove their phone and wearable technology and can use them once they have left the school site.

Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals

Pupils arriving late or leaving early must pouch/unpouch their phones and wearable technology at the **main school office**, as they are signing in/out.

Procedures and Sanctions

Pouches must be brought to school each day. If a pupil forgets their Yondr pouch, they can borrow one for the day from the member of staff on gate duty in the morning. They will receive a formal warning for forgetting vital equipment. The pouch is to be returned at the end of the school day to the member of staff on gate duty. If a pupil borrows a pouch for 5 days without communication from a parent, it will be treated as a lost pouch.

If a pupil is found with a phone during the school day, it will immediately be confiscated (for parents to collect) and a minimum of an after-school detention issued. If a pouch is repeatedly forgotten, a pupil may receive a more severe sanction, or be treated as if the pouch has been lost.

Bag searches may be conducted if teachers have grounds for concern that a pupil has a mobile device on them that hasn't been placed into their pouch. We may use a detection wand to search a pupil for the presence of a phone on their person.

Ad hoc pouch rental

For any parents who decide not to buy a pouch for their child, there will be an ad hoc charge of **£5** a day to borrow a pouch on days when you deem it necessary for your child to bring their phone to school.

Damaged/lost pouches

If a pupil loses or damages their pouch (beyond being usable), they will either be expected to leave their phone (or wearable technology) at home, or to purchase a new Yondr pouch. The cost of a replacement pouch may vary, depending on delivery costs. If a pupil loses or damages a borrowed pouch, they will be required to purchase a new one.

Medical exceptions

We recognise that some pupils depend on a device for essential health monitoring. In each of these cases:

- The arrangement will be agreed in advance with the Assistant Head (Pastoral)
- Use of the device will be strictly limited to its stated medical purpose, as set out in the pupil's individual care plan
- A separate type of phone pouch will be provided

No pupil's health or safety will be compromised by this policy, and we will always work sensitively with families where individual needs require a different approach.

Communication

We understand that many families feel reassured by knowing their child can reach them. If your child needs to reach you, they can do so through the office. If you need to contact your child during the school day, our school office is your first point of contact, and messages will be passed on promptly.

The school's phone number is 01422 202256.

Other wearable technology

Smartwatches and smartglasses are also prohibited items, even if they are on 'school mode'. A smartwatch may be stored in the Yondr pouch along with the pupil's phone, but smartglasses must not be brought into school.

This is not an exhaustive list of wearable technology; any technology with the ability to communicate with other devices, to take photos, or record audio/videos is prohibited.

Trips:

Access to mobile devices on School Trips will be considered as part of the trip planning procedure. Planning will take into account the need to contact parents, whether a single day trip or a residential trip, and whether parents will require contact with their children. It may be that pupils are required to take a Yondr pouch for part of the trip, and are given access to their phones for set times on the trip.