



Policy Title: Student Phone Pouch policy	Effective Date:	June 2026
LT Member Responsible: Assistant Headteacher	Review Date:	June 2027

## Sheldon School is a Mobile Free School

### Benefits of the Yondr System

The use of the Yondr system supports Sheldon School's commitment to a calm, focused and inclusive learning environment. Key benefits include:

- Promotes greater focus, attention, and engagement during lessons, enabling students to learn without unnecessary distraction.
- Encourages positive social interaction during break and lunchtime, helping students build relationships and social confidence.
- Reduces distractions and supports a respectful, purposeful learning environment across the school day.
- Supports student wellbeing by providing regular breaks from constant digital stimulation.
- Provides a supportive, distraction free environment that benefits all students, including those with SEND.

### Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)

This policy is informed by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025, particularly paragraph 137, which states that schools should have a clear policy on the use of mobile and smart technology, recognising that many children have unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks such as 3G, 4G and 5G.

Phones and wearable technology (including smartwatches, AirPods and earbuds) are not permitted for use on site during the school day.

Every student is issued with a personal Yondr pouch where required. It is each student's responsibility to:

- Bring their pouch to school when they are bringing a phone
- Maintain it in good working condition
- Follow all procedures outlined in this Policy

## 1. Purpose and Rationale

**1.1** This policy sets out Sheldon School's approach to mobile phones and wearable technology for students in **Years 7–11**, including the use of the **Yondr phone pouch system**.

**1.2** The policy supports:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- A calm, focused learning environment
- Student wellbeing and social interaction
- Equity and consistency in expectations

**1.3** This policy is informed by **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025**, particularly paragraph 137, which requires schools to have a clear policy regarding mobile and smart technology use.

## 2. Scope of the Policy

2.1 This policy applies to:

- All students in **Years 7–10 Yr 11 from September 26**
- All mobile phones
- All wearable technology, including but not limited to:
  - Smartwatches
  - AirPods / earbuds
  - Bluetooth headphones

2.2 Sixth Form students are covered separately in **Section 15**.

## 3. Core Rule

3.1 Sheldon School is a **mobile-free school** for students in Years 7–10.

3.2 Mobile phones and wearable technology:

- Must not be used
- Must not be visible
- Must not be accessible during the school day while on site.

## 4. The Yondr Phone Pouch System

4.1 Students who bring a mobile phone to school will be issued with a **personal Yondr phone pouch**.

4.2 Each student is responsible for:

- Bringing their pouch to school when bringing a phone
- Maintaining the pouch in good condition
- Following all procedures in this policy

## 5. Arrival at School – Gate Procedures

5.1 On arrival at school, students bringing a phone must:

1. Switch the phone off
2. Open their Yondr pouch using the unlocking base
3. Place the phone and any wearable technology into the pouch
4. Lock the pouch **in front of staff**
5. Store the locked pouch in their bag

5.2 Students will **not be permitted to enter the school site** until this process is completed.

5.3 If a student brings a phone without a pouch:

- The phone will be **immediately confiscated** as a safeguarding measure
- It will be taken to Reception for collection at the end of the day

5.4 Any refusal to follow instructions, including refusal to hand over a phone, will result in an **external suspension**.

## 6. Tutor Time Checks

6.1 During tutor time:

- Students must place their **locked Yondr pouch** on their desk alongside their equipment mat
- Tutors will visually check that pouches are present and locked while taking the register

6.2 Students without a pouch/ mobile phone (who should have one) will be sent to **RESET** for investigation.

## 7. Forgotten Pouches – Escalation

7.1 All forgotten pouch incidents are logged and monitored.

## 7.2 Escalation Pathway

- **1st–2nd forgotten pouch**  
→ Phone confiscated + lunchtime detention
- **3rd forgotten pouch**  
→ One-day **internal suspension**
- **5th forgotten pouch**  
→ **External suspension**

**7.3** Where it is judged that a student is deliberately choosing not to bring a pouch, this will be treated as a **deliberate refusal** and result in an **external suspension**.

## 8. During the School Day

**8.1** Pouches must remain:

- Locked
- Stored in bags

for the entire school day.

**8.2** If a student is seen with:

- A phone
- Wearable technology
- An unlocked pouch

this is a **serious breach** and will result in an **external suspension**.

## 9. Dummy / Decoy Phones

**9.1** Students must place their **actual mobile phone** into the pouch each morning.

**9.2** Placing a dummy, decoy, or non-functioning phone into a pouch while retaining a real phone is considered a **deliberate attempt to bypass the policy**.

**9.3** Sanction

- Phone confiscated
- Treated as a serious breach
- **External suspension issued**

## 10. Unlocking Devices and Magnets

**10.1** Possession of:

- A Yondr unlocking magnet, or
- Any item capable of unlocking a pouch

is a **serious offence**.

**10.2** Sanction: **External suspension**

## 11. Students Who Do Not Bring a Mobile Phone

**11.1** Parents/carers of students who do not bring a phone must complete the approved **No Phone Declaration Form**.

**11.2** Approved students will:

- Still be issued with a Yondr pouch
- Be issued with a **No Phone Pass and this will go inside the pouch**

**11.3** If a student with a No Phone Pass is later found with a phone on site, this will be treated as a **serious breach**.

## 12. Physical Medical and Hearing Impairment Exceptions

**12.1** Exceptions are permitted **only** where a student requires immediate access to a phone for:

- A diagnosed physical medical condition, or

- A diagnosed hearing impairment

**12.2** Approved students will be issued with a **Velcro-sealed Yondr pouch**.

**12.3** Mental health, anxiety-related, emotional wellbeing or pastoral reasons **do not qualify**.

**12.4** There are **no other exceptions**.

### **13. Lost or Damaged Pouches**

**13.1** If a pouch is lost or damaged:

- A replacement must be purchased via ParentPay (£17.50)

**13.2** Deliberate damage includes:

- Rips, cuts, bent pins
- Force to the locking mechanism
- Ability to open without unlocking base

**13.3** Deliberate damage will result in an **external suspension**.

### **14. End-of-Day Procedures**

**14.1** At the end of the day, students must:

1. Unlock their pouch
2. Remove their phone
3. Relock the pouch
4. Store the pouch in their bag overnight

### **15. Late Arrivals and Early Leavers**

**15.1** Late arrivals must report to Reception and secure their phone there.

**15.2** Early leavers must sign out and unlock their pouch at Reception.

### **16. Parental and Student Communication**

**16.1** Parents/carers should contact **Main Reception** for urgent messages.

**16.2** Students needing to contact home will be supported by:

- Their Year Team Office, or
- Main Reception

### **17. Searches and Safeguarding**

**17.1** Sheldon School reserves the right to ensure that students are not carrying mobile phones.

**17.2** Hand-held metal detector wands may be used in line with DfE statutory guidance.

### **18. Ongoing Compliance Checks**

**18.1** Compliance checks may include:

- Tutor group checks
- Supervised pouch unlocking
- Confirmation devices are live phones

**18.2** These checks are not punitive and ensure fairness and consistency.

### **19. Sixth Form Mobile Phone Use**

**19.1** Sixth Form students are **not included** in the Yondr pouch system.

**19.2** Mobile phones may be used **only** in:

- Sixth Form Common Room
- Sixth Form Study Room

**19.3** Use outside these areas may result in confiscation.

## Summary Table

Situation	Immediate Action	Investigation / Logging	Sanction
1st–2nd forgotten pouch	RESET	Reason investigated; logged and monitored	Phone confiscated + lunchtime detention
3rd forgotten pouch	RESET	Escalation logged by Year Team	One day internal suspension
5th forgotten pouch	RESET	Escalation logged by Year Team	External suspension
Deliberate failure to bring pouch	RESET	Behaviour review	External suspension
Refusal to hand over phone	RESET	—	External suspension
Phone / wearable tech visible	RESET	—	External suspension
Use of a dummy / decoy Phone	RESET	Breach confirmed	Phone confiscated + external suspension
Deliberately damaged pouch	RESET	Damage assessed	Replacement pouch + external suspension