



CHANNING SCHOOL

MOBILE FREE PHONE POLICY

This policy applies to the whole School including to the EYFS

Updated	Review Date	Version
NEW	April 2027	26.1

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Approved by: Dina Hamalis (Head of the Junior School) and Lindsey Hughes (Headmistress)

Signed by: Board of Governors (Education Committee)

Appendix A - FAQs for parents and pupils

Appendix B - FAQs for staff

Appendix C - Junior School Information

From April 2026, schools are expected to adhere to an updated guidance in which schools become a mobile phone free environment (see guidance [here](#)). Whilst the guidance is non statutory, we have reviewed the evidence and remain in the view that it is safer and more conducive to good educational outcomes to follow it. We believe that this policy will continue to contribute to reducing distractions in class, prevent bullying and online issues, improve focus, behaviour, social interaction among pupils and ultimately harness the potential of mastering digital literacy in a successful and structured way throughout the curriculum.

We very much hope that pupils and parents will be motivated to support the school in continuing being the calm, community-based and nurturing school that we are.

Restrictions during the school day:

- Reception children and pupils in Year 1 to Year 4 are not permitted to bring mobile devices onto the premises;
- Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to carry mobile phones to and from school but must hand them in to the school office on arrival and do not have access to them during the day where they are placed in Yonder pouches;
- Pupils in Years 7 to 11 lock their mobile phones in Yondr pouches throughout the day.
- We authorise the use of mobile phones within the confines of the Sixth Form Centre for Years 12 and 13 subject to the Online Safety Policy.

BEHAVIOUR

We will use the School's Discipline and Behaviour policy to enforce a mobile phone free environment. As such, we will escalate each matter as appropriate should improvement not be reached following a verbal warning/informal resolution. We may confiscate the phone until the end of the school day if a pupil is found to have broken the above rules. If a pupil breaks the rules on multiple occasions, the discipline and behaviour policy will be applied and the school reserves the right to confiscate the phone for longer periods as well as using other, appropriate sanctions.

The school has various procedures in place with regards to lost or broken Yondr pouches. Please see the FAQs sheet for parents and pupils in Appendix A for more information. This document also lays out the procedure should a pouch be deliberately

damaged.

EXCEPTIONS

Pupils who need their phones for exceptional reasons, for example the application of medical devices such as a diabetes pump, will continue to be allowed to use them but will be asked to ensure that the device is only used for the administration of this particular reason.

FILTERING AND MONITORING

The School has a robust infrastructure in place for the filtering and monitoring of mobile devices used on school premises and specifically in the context of mobile phone misuse. Please see Appendix 10 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures on Filtering and Monitoring.

Appendix A - FAQs for parents and Senior School pupils

How does the system work for an individual child?

- Each pupil is issued with their own Yondr pouch. It is theirs to keep; it is their property and responsibility.
- They must bring it to school with them every morning. At the start of school, the Form Tutor or teacher on duty at the gate will ask every pupil to switch their phone off and put it in their Yondr pouch and click the pouch shut.
- The pupil keeps the pouch, and their phone, on them for the day. It remains their responsibility, but the phone cannot be accessed.
- At the end of the day, on the way out of school, the pupil touches their phone against an unlocking station, the pouch opens, and they are reunited with their phone.
- The pupil goes home, with their phone in their possession and the pouch in the “unlocked” position also still in their possession. Our recommendation is that the pouch goes straight in their school bag and stays there until the following morning.
- The following morning they leave home still with their phone in their possession and with their pouch in the “unlocked” position. When they arrive at school the process starts again.

How do we know whose pouch is whose?

- Pupils can name their pouches with a marker pen, or in any other way they choose. It is their property. As with uniform, a simple name tag or name written on in an indelible pen will make it clear.

What happens if a child comes to school without their pouch?

- If a pupil does not have their pouch with them, they can hand in their phone to Reception. This needs to be an exception, however.
- The Yondr pouch is a crucial piece of equipment to carry and we will consider sanctions for pupils who repeatedly forget their pouch.

What happens if a pouch is lost or damaged?

- Accidental damage is unlikely, given the sturdiness of the pouches.
- If a pupil loses a pouch, they will be charged for a permanent replacement (see note below re costs). Replacements can be obtained from their Head of Year. The cost of a replacement pouch is £25 and will be added to the school bill.
- If a pupil deliberately damages a pouch (e.g. cuts it open) we will consider sanctions and you will be charged for a replacement as above.
- If accidental damage renders a pouch obsolete, a new one will be issued free of charge.

What happens if a pupil leaves their phone turned on in a pouch and somebody rings it?

- The phone will ring as pouches do not block the signal.
- That pupil has failed to follow the instruction to switch their phone off at the start of the day. Their pouch and phone will be confiscated and handed in to Mr Meier (Senior Deputy), as is currently the case, and can be collected at the end of the day.

What happens if a pupil arrives with their pouch already in the locked position, and therefore unable to put their phone in?

- It will be explained to pupils that it is a part of their responsibility to ensure they arrive with a pouch in the unlocked position.
- Unlocking stations will be available by the entrances to school at the start of the day for any pupil who needs to unlock their pouch when they arrive.
- Pouches are unlikely to accidentally default to the locked position, given they require a firm press to click into the locked position.

How do you prevent children accessing the unlocking stations during the day?

- Unlocking stations are portable and lockable and our team will move them into position so that they are available at the appropriate time of day.

What happens if a pupil forgets to unlock their phone at the end of the school day and goes home unable to access their phone for a night, weekend, school holiday? (Or if a mischievous sibling locks their phone away)?

- That pupil will not be able to access their phone during that period of time.
- The school Reception is open until 6:30pm and the phone can be unlocked there until then.

What happens if pupils arrive at school early?

- They will bring their phone and pouch with them, as they would if they were arriving at the usual time. They will be asked to lock their phone in the breakfast club or before their first activity.

What happens if a child needs to leave school early for reasons of sickness, an appointment, or another reason?

- There will be a supervised unlocking station available throughout the school day at reception where pupils sign out.

What happens if a pupil arrives at school late, for example after an early appointment?

- That pupil will lock their phone in their pouch when signing in at reception

What happens if a pupil is leaving directly from a venue other than the main school, such as Stanhope Road (playing fields)?

- Where pupils are attending a venue that is not the main Channing site (e.g. an away fixture or trip), we will either take a portable unlocking station to that site or allow pupils to unlock their phones before they leave the school site.

How do you manage several hundred pupils wanting access at the end of the day to their phones?

- The unlocking stations are quick, and there are enough provided to allow for a steady flow of pupils.

What if my pupil doesn't have a mobile phone?

- This is absolutely fine and they need to let their form tutor know, please. We will verify this with you. .

What if a pupil says they didn't bring their phone to school that day?

- The Yondr pouches are an opportunity to engage positively with issues around mobile phones and we feel strongly that pupils who do not bring a school phone should be commended for their choice.
- Our School Office team will contact parents to confirm that this is the case.
- If the pupils are found to be using a phone in school it will be confiscated and we will consider sanctions.

What if a pupil is staying after school to revise in the Library, or for a rehearsal, for example?

- The aim of Yondr is to create a phone free school. Pupils will therefore be asked to unlock their phones after their last activity, when they leave the school site.

- If the last activity takes them beyond school closing time (such as drama or music performances) we will make sure that we offer flexible opportunities to unlock the pouches at an opportune moment.

I am a full bursary holder. How is the annual cost covered?

- The school will meet the annual cost for you.

Won't pupils simply use their iPads or Chromebooks instead?

- Pupils are unable to install apps that are not authorised by the school onto these devices.
- The firewall blacklists web services which we do not want them to access such as social media, gaming and entertainment. We have also restricted access to iMessage and other messaging services.
- We will continue with our policy that in Years 7-9 devices must only be used for educational purposes in the Library during break and lunch time and confiscate devices used in any other way during these times.

Appendix B - FAQs for staff

The aim of using Yondr is to create a phone free school. Pupils in Years 7-10 will not be allowed to use their phone on the school site during the school day. They should put them into pouches on arrival at school, click them shut and keep them in their bag until they unlock them at the end of the day.

How does the system work for an individual pupil?

- Each pupil is issued with their own Yondr pouch. That is theirs, which is always their property and responsibility.
- They bring it to school with them in the morning. At the gate on entering the school, they switch their phone off and put it in their Yondr pouch and click the pouch shut.
- Form tutors are expected to check that every pupil has clicked shut their pouch at registration time.
- The child keeps the pouch, and their phone, on them for the day. It remains their responsibility, but cannot be accessed.
- At the end of the day, on the way out of school, the pupil touches their phone against an unlocking station, the pouch opens, and they are reunited with their phone.
- The pupil goes home, with their phone in their possession and the pouch in the "unlocked" position also still in their possession. Our recommendation is that it goes straight in their school bag, staying there until the following morning.
- The following morning they leave the house, still with their phone in their possession and with their pouch in the "unlocked" position. They arrive at school - the day and the process starts again.

How do we know whose pouch is whose?

- Pupils can name their pouches with a marker pen, or in any other way they choose. It is their property. As with uniform, a simple name tag or name written on will make it clear.

What happens if a pupil comes to school without their pouch?

- If a pupil does not have their pouch with them, their teacher will send them to reception to get a spare pouch for this day.
- These pouches will be marked "SPARE" and must be returned to Reception at the end of the day.
- Please issue demerits for repeat offences.

What happens if a pouch is lost or damaged?

- Accidental damage is unlikely, given the sturdiness of the pouches.
- If a pupil loses a pouch, they will be charged for a permanent replacement (see note below re costs). Replacements can be obtained from the Head of Year. The cost of a replacement pouch is £25 and will be added to the school bill
- If a pupil deliberately damages a pouch (e.g. cuts it open) please issue a lunch detention and parents will be charged for a replacement as above.
- Though highly unlikely, if accidental damage renders a pouch obsolete, a new one will be issued free of charge.

What happens if a pupil brings a dummy/spare phone into school?

- It is an unavoidable aspect of almost any system that children will seek to find ways to negate it. There is no solution that definitively guarantees no child can ever have a phone with them on-site.
- Where a pupil is found to be deceitful in their attempts to keep a phone on their person, parents would be contacted and a lunch detention should be issued.

What happens if a pupil leaves their phone turned on in a pouch and somebody rings it?

- The phone will ring as pouches do not block the signal.
- That pupil has failed to follow the instruction to switch their phone off at the start of the day. Their pouch and phone is confiscated and handed in to the Deputy Head, as is currently the case.

What happens if a pupil arrives with their pouch already in the locked position, and therefore unable to put their phone in?

- Pupils will have it explained to them that it is a part of their responsibility to ensure they arrive with a pouch in the unlocked position.

- Unlocking stations will be available by the entrances to school at the start of the day for any pupil who needs to unlock their pouch when they arrive.
- Pouches are unlikely to accidentally default to the locked position, given they require a firm press to click into the locked position.

How do you prevent pupils accessing the unlocking stations during the day?

- Unlocking stations are portable and lockable.
- We will unlock the stations 15 minutes before the end of the school day.

What happens if a pupil forgets to unlock their phone at the end of the school day and goes home unable to access their phone for a night, weekend, school holiday? (Or if a mischievous sibling locks their phone away)?

- That child will not be able to access their phone during that period of time.
- The school Reception is open until 6.30pm and the phone can be unlocked there until then.

What happens if pupils arrive at school early?

- They will bring their phone and pouch with them, as they would if they were arriving at the usual time. They will be asked to lock their phone in the breakfast club or before their first activity.
- The pupils are not allowed to use their phone anywhere on the school site. If they are found before school with their phones out, please confiscate these. This includes before school starts in form rooms.

What happens if a pupil needs to leave school early for reasons of sickness, an appointment, etc?

- There will be a supervised unlocking station available throughout the school day at Reception where pupils sign out.

What happens if a pupil arrives at school late, for example after an early appointment?

- That pupil will lock their phone in their pouch when signing in at Reception.

What happens if a pupil is leaving directly from a venue other than the main school, such as Stanhope Road (playing fields)?

- Where pupils are attending a venue that is not the main Channing site (e.g. an away fixture or trip), staff will either take a portable unlocking station to that site or allow pupils to unlock their phones before they leave the school site.

What if a pupil is staying after school to revise in the Library, or for a rehearsal, for example?

- The aim of Yondr is to create a phone free school. Pupils will therefore be asked to unlock their phones after their last activity, when they leave the school site.
- If the last activity takes them beyond school closing time (such as drama or music performances) we will make sure that we offer flexible opportunities to unlock the pouches at an opportune moment.
- If you take a late activity, please either allow the pupils to unlock the pouches before the school closes or take a magnet from Reception to do so in situ.

How will we manage several hundred pupils wanting access at the end of the day to their phones?

- The unlocking stations are quick, and there will be enough provided to allow for a steady flow of pupils. Yondr have visited and assessed our site and envisage no obstacle to the smooth running of the system.

If unlocked by a magnet, could the pupils not just bring a powerful magnet into school?

- Yondr doesn't sell the unlocking devices directly to individuals for this very reason. They intermittently receive requests from parents, pupils and pupils purporting to be parents but only supply them to verified institutions.
- If pupils source a very, very strong magnet they would be able to open the pouch. Yondr are aware of this having happened on one or two occasions. We would deal firmly with any pupil who did this, though we believe the likelihood to be low.

What if a pupil doesn't have a mobile phone?

- Pupils and parents are instructed that parents must contact us to confirm their child does not bring a phone to school.

What if a pupil says they didn't bring their phone to school that day?

- Please contact Reception, who will contact parents to confirm that this is the case.

Will this process take a lot of time in the morning, especially if there are many pupils who have forgotten their pouch?

- Experience from other schools has shown that it might take longer during the first weeks but pupils settle into the new routine quickly.

What about Year 11 and Sixth form students?

- The rules for older students do not change: Year 11 students will be allowed to carry their phones but they must not be seen nor heard during the school day. Year 11 students will therefore have more responsibility, which will be subject to ongoing review. Sixth Form students are allowed to use their phones in the Sixth Form Centre only.

- Please confiscate Year 11 phones if misused and remind Sixth Form students of their role model function.
- Repeat offenders can be threatened to be 'pouched' as a temporary intervention.

Won't pupils simply use their iPads or Chromebooks?

- Pupils are unable to install apps that are not allowed by the school onto these devices.
- The firewall blacklists web services we do not want them to access such as social media, gaming and entertainment. We have also restricted access to iMessage and other messaging services.
- We will continue with our policy that in Years 7-9 devices must only be used for educational purposes in the Library and confiscate devices from Years 7-9 if used outside the Library during break and lunch time. Please hand these to DG if you find pupils using them.

Appendix C - Junior School information

Usual procedure

On arrival, pupils in Year 5 or 6 who bring in a mobile phone for self-dismissal purposes must turn off their device and hand it in to the school office. The device is placed into a named Yondr pouch by a member of the office team. If it is a pupil's first time bringing in a device, the office team will label a Yondr pouch for them. Devices are stored in a locked cupboard within the school office for the duration of the school day. The school is responsible for devices while they are securely stored in this system.

If a pupil forgets to hand in their phone, they must do so as soon as they remember. If a pupil does not hand in their mobile phone on arrival, this is a breach of the school procedure. In such cases, the school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to the device; responsibility remains with the pupil.

At the end of the school day, pupils collect their phones from the school office, where they are returned by a member of staff. Pupils attending an after-school club collect their phone after club dismissal.

Going offsite

Pupils' devices remain stored in their Yondr pouch in the Junior School office when pupils are offsite, including visits to the Senior School, Waterlow Park, or day trips. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 must leave mobile phones at home for residential trips. Pupils attending a Senior School club after school collect their phone from the Junior School office prior to departure.

Alternative collection

If a pupil forgets their phone at school, it remains securely stored in a Yondr pouch within a locked cupboard in the Junior School office. Parents will be informed by office staff before 6pm on the same day. If a pupil is unable to collect their mobile phone (e.g. due to illness, early collection, or other exceptional circumstances), a parent or carer may collect it on their behalf from the school office.