

16 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: The Launch of Yondr (For Current Year 7 to 10 Students)

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are delighted to have awarded our students over 800,000 positive behaviour points since September, this highlights the aspiration of our students who attend school with a positive attitude and are keen to learn.

In a bid to support our high aspirations and positive learning environment, we have reviewed our mobile phone policy. To eliminate any distractions and support student wellbeing, we will be introducing a Yondr pouch system which will be fully implemented after May half term. All students will be required to place their phone in a Yondr pouch upon arrival at school. This pouch will then be locked and remain with the student throughout the day. It will then be unlocked at the end of the school day when students are leaving the school site.

Yondr pouches are being used across multiple schools nationally and internationally to facilitate a distraction free learning environment, something which we very much believe our students at Hungerhill deserve. We know that learning and social behaviour improve significantly when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates and are not distracted by technology.

The Yondr Program creates a phone-free learning environment for all students from arrival to dismissal. We are encouraged by the national research statistics showing the positive effects of this system in learning institutions. Yondr surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools reported 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**
- **86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness**



Schools local to Hungerhill which already have Yondr in place have noticed an improvement in concentration, students chatting to each other at break and lunch, almost complete elimination of safeguarding issues caused by inappropriate phone use and a reduction in students saying unkind things to each other through social media.

We understand that you will have some questions about the Yondr system, please see the FAQs below to support your understanding.

How does the phone pouch work?



POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

How quick is the unlocking process?

The unlocking process is quick and takes under a second per student. While students are still getting used to how to unlock pouches, staff will be on hand with mobile unlocking stations to stop queues forming in the first few weeks. If needed, we will add extra unlocking points.

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your child during the school day unless it is a genuine emergency. If there is an emergency and you need to get in contact with your child, please telephone our school reception: 01302 885811 or email admin@hungerhillschool.com If emailing please put your child's name and year group in the subject line.

Will my child's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We expect students to switch off their phone and store the pouch in their own bags.



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What if my child has a diagnosed medical condition or uses their phone for translation purposes?

We understand that some students may require access to their phone for diagnosed medical reasons (ie – diabetic readings) or translation purposes. In these cases, there will be a modified arrangement, so devices remain accessible when required but otherwise are kept secure.

What if my child uses their phone for Pastoral reasons?

We have a strong network of support for students whilst in school. Should they have anxieties, they can approach a member of staff who will support accordingly and arrange for a student to make a telephone call home if necessary.

What if my child forgets to bring their pouch?

If a student arrives at school without their Yondr pouch, they hand it in on the **main gate** in exchange for a numbered ticket. The phone will be held at Reception for the rest of the school day. They then bring their ticket to collect their mobile phone. If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered lost – see below regarding replacement of pouches.

What if my child chooses not to bring their phone to school?

Some students may decide against bringing their mobile devices to school. For consistency, we will complete a quick scan using a wand to ensure phones are not hidden on a person.

What if my student loses their pouch?

If lost or damaged, there will be a charge of £25 for a replacement. If the pouch is not replaced, the student should not bring their mobile phone to school.

What if a student is caught with their phone not in a pouch/or an unlocked pouch?

If a student is found to not have their phone stored in a Yondr pouch or not have the pouch locked, we will confiscate the phone and parent/carers will be contacted to come to school and collect their child's phone. In addition, consequences will be allocated in line with our behaviour policy which may include in-school isolation or suspension.

Please note that the Yondr pouch remains the property of Hungerhill School. If a student damages or tampers with a Yondr pouch, they will be held responsible. The student's phone will be confiscated by the school until a parent/carer comes to the school to pick up their child's phone and a replacement pouch may be purchased for £25. If the pouch is not replaced, the student should not bring their mobile phone to school. If they do so, it should be handed in daily and collected at the end of the school day, as per our policy.

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.

How can I clean my student's Yondr pouch?

In adherence to CDC guidelines, Yondr pouches can be washed in cold water for a short cycle and dried on a short cycle and/or air dried. Pouches can also be cleaned with a disinfectant cleaner.



What if my child is unwell during the school day?

All students are expected to follow the first aid procedure. The policy is available on the Hungerhill website. If we feel a student is too unwell to be in school, you will be contacted to arrange collection. Yondr pouches will be unlocked at reception before the student leaves the building.

What happens if my child forgets to open their pouch at the end of the day?

In Yondr's experience, this almost never happens. All students funnel past the unlocking stations at the exits; they want their phones back and don't forget to unlock their pouches. If they do arrive home with a phone in a pouch, they can either come back to school to unlock it or have a phone free evening!

To confirm, every student who brings a phone to school secures it in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at the school gate. This pouch will be given to students free of charge after May half term and will be identifiable to them via a unique personalised number on the pouch. Students will keep their phones in their school bags and will not use them until they open their pouches as they leave at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. By using the Yondr pouches properly, we will have no need to confiscate phones.

If you have any further questions, please submit them using the Microsoft form link below. We will aim to address any further queries over the coming weeks.

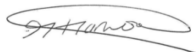
<https://forms.office.com/e/V9z4y9htAY>

We encourage you to speak with your child about this change in policy and mutually decide if your child intends to bring their phone to school at all. Your involvement plays a vital role, and we are extremely grateful for the support you can offer.

We appreciate your cooperation in working together with us to uphold the best possible learning environment for our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Harwood
Lead Deputy Headteacher

