



RSA/SHA

10 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Updated Mobile-Phone Policy (Years 7–11)

I hope this letter finds you well and apologise in advance for this lengthy letter. As we approach the end of the current academic year, I am sharing some important updates regarding our mobile phone policy and the rationale behind these changes.

As it currently stands, our policy on mobile phones is that they are not permitted to be seen or used on school grounds. Our primary focus is always the physical and mental well-being and safeguarding of our students. After careful consideration based on parental, students and staff feedback along with consultation with experts, we have decided to implement a new policy approach regarding mobile phone usage at our school for students in Years 7-11 from September 2025.

From **September 2025** all students who bring a mobile phone or digital device (including AirPods/headphones) to school must secure it in a *Yondr* pouch on arrival. The pouch locks instantly and stays with the student; it can only be unlocked when they leave site (or after any detention).

This is the **only** change to our current “**phones-out-of-sight**” rule.

Why the change?

- **Learning & focus** – Removing access during lessons cuts distraction and improves engagement.
- **Well-being** – Research links heavy phone use with higher anxiety, lower mood and disrupted sleep.
- **Safeguarding** – Limiting unsupervised access reduces cyber-bullying, misuse of cameras and exposure to inappropriate content.
- **Government guidance** – The [DfE advises](#) schools to keep phones inaccessible during the day to minimise disruption and bullying.



How the Yondr system works

1. **Arrival:** Student places phone/ear-buds in their personal pouch.
2. **During the day:** Device remains locked and in the student's possession.
3. **Leaving school:** Student taps the pouch on an unlocking base and retrieves the phone.

The school will issue one pouch free of charge; replacements can be purchased via Arbor Pay if lost or damaged. Students who need phone access for medical monitoring (e.g. diabetes) will receive adjusted arrangements.

Expectations & consequences

- **All** devices on site must be in a locked pouch.
- Attempts to hide, use or bypass the system will be treated as a serious breach of the behaviour policy.
- Refusal to comply may lead to removal from circulation or suspension; phones may be confiscated and collected only by a parent/carer after school.

What we need from you

Please complete the **Microsoft Form** (link below) **by Thursday 31 July 2025** indicating whether your child will bring a phone.

- If your child has **no phone or will leave it at home**, simply record that on the form.
- Use the comments box to note any medical exemptions or queries.

[Microsoft Form Link Here](#)



Support & further information

- Student assemblies (Years 7–10) have taken place this week and further assemblies are planned for September. We will be placing a brief parent video on the school website to support the rationale for this decision. [Link to video.](#)
- More on Yondr: www.veryondr.com/phone-free-schools
- Government guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools

If you have questions, contact the main office (enquiries@hartschool.org.uk / 01889 802 440) or add them to the form.

We believe that this new policy will significantly contribute to the well-being and safety of our students.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and partnership in making our school a positive and secure place for our students to thrive and succeed.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Sandham

Principal