



Friday, 23 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Yondr Smartphone Solution

Like all schools in the borough, Brentside High School has a clear mobile phone policy. This has been in place throughout your child's time at Brentside. The policy is that mobile phones must not be used (or seen) on site. Currently, should a student choose to bring their mobile phone to school, they do so at their own risk, must keep their phone turned off and in their bag, and they must not use their phone on site, apart from at the end of the school day from the playground where they may call or message home to notify of attendance at clubs or other or that they are leaving the school site.

However, we are aware that a minority of students have accessed mobile phones on site, and we want to provide certainty for all students and staff as well as a respite from the pressure to access phones during the school day.

With the increased national focus on the potential harmful impact of smartphones on mental health, as well as the results of the student, family and staff surveys earlier this year, we want to strengthen the implementation of our policy. For this reason, and having visited other schools employing this system, we are now working with Yondr.

Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. We have thoroughly reviewed options, and we are confident our approach with Yondr will have a positive impact here.

We believe that phones have great utility. We also know that learning and social behaviour improve when students are fully engaged with their teachers and peers.

The Sixth Form will continue to operate under existing conditions whereby as young adults, they are allowed controlled access in designated areas to support their study.

**The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone.** Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school.

**Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day.**

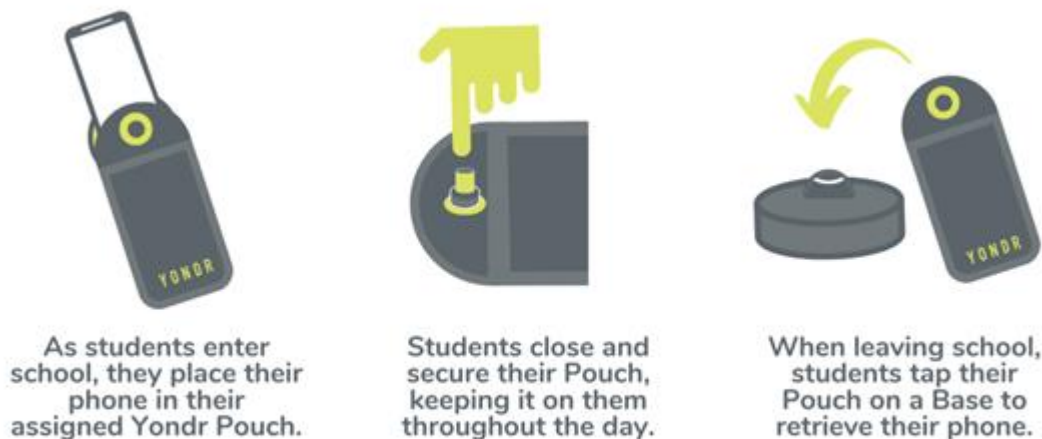
Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 schools they work with to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved 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**

Please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below to find out more. If you have any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly by clicking the link found at the end of the FAQs section. There will also be an upcoming online meeting whereby we will be able to demonstrate the process and answer any questions regarding the process. The online meeting will be during the week beginning Monday, 9 June 2025, an exact time and link for the online meeting will be shared during the week beginning Monday, 2 June 2025. Any questions you send to us via the link beyond the FAQs will be communicated at the online forum.

### How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.

Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.

When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 020 8575 9162.

#### **What if there is a school emergency?**

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol. **The school would communicate with all parents where required and mobile handheld unlocking stations would allow student access to phones.**

#### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch safely in their backpacks or blazer pockets. **Students should ensure they always keep their bag with them or keep their phone in their blazer. The school does not accept any responsibility for lost phones. Bringing phones to school is an option parents can exercise at their own risk. The Yondr pouches allow the school site to be 'phone free'**

#### **What if a student forgets their pouch?**

**As part of ensuring the school remains phone free the integrity of the processes is paramount. The student will hand their phone to staff on arrival; it will be placed in an envelope and there will be a same day detention. Students with particular needs may have a reasonable adjustment to this. Phones will be returned at the end of the detention before 16.00.**

**Detentions are communicated on ClassCharts when logged. Families that have not yet accessed ClassCharts will receive an email at the time of this letter being sent to families reminding families of the process and password. Please check your inbox for the email account registered to the school. Please also check your Junk Mail for the process and password to access your account.**

#### **What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?**

Any attempts to damage the pouch which renders it inoperable will result in the family having to pay £25 for a replacement.

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 or Yondr staff.

**What if a student is caught on their phone, i.e. they have deliberately misled staff or refused to follow the school policy being outlined here?**

If a student is found on a phone by whatever means, and there is information to support the fact they have been dishonest and made a conscious choice not to follow the school policy then we will collect the phone/pouch and call home to outline:

- The phone will be confiscated for a week (for the first occasion) and then a parent/carer will be required to collect it, two weeks on the second occasion and six weeks on the third occasion.
- There will also be a same day detention as outlined above
- Should a student refuse to co-operate with the school and refuse to hand over their phone then this will likely result in a suspension for failure to adhere to the school policy.

**What happens if a student 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!

**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 my child does not bring a phone to school?**

Please complete this form with details of your child, including first name, surname, form class if your child does not bring a phone to school <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bhs-nophonestoschool-yondrprogram-may25>

**Questions that have not been answered above**

If you have any questions that are not answered above, then please use this weblink <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bhs-unansweredquestions-yondrprogram-may25> to submit a question. We will not reply directly but will answer the questions collectively for communication at a later point at the online meetings in June.

We thank you for your continued full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at Brentside High School.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Duffy  
Deputy Headteacher