



Tomlinscote School

23rd June 2026

RE: Mobile Phone Policy Update - Yondr Pouch System

Dear Parent or Carer,

We wrote to all parents a couple of weeks ago to outline the WMAT updated policy regarding mobile phones, which will come into effect from September 2026.

Our Phone-Free Culture

Tomlinscote has successfully maintained a phone-free environment for several years, and we're proud of the positive culture this has created. Our students engage fully in lessons and social time without phone disruptions, and confiscations are minimal. We are aware, that despite phones not being allowed at Tomlinscote, many students bring a phone to school; this has grown in recent years with parents wanting to track their children to and from school. The new Yondr Pouch system will facilitate children being able to bring a phone to school but will allow us to maintain a phone-free environment during the day.

Government Guidance

In January 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) updated its guidance to schools, shifting from a discretionary approach to a clear expectation that schools should be phone-free by default. Further to this, in April, the government proposed strengthening this by making the ban a legal requirement rather than an expectation. This latest stance from the DfE now matches our own: that schools should be mobile-phone-free environments for the entire school day, including lessons, transition times, break times and lunchtimes.

Our Approach

Over recent months, we have carefully considered various approaches to implementing the government's phone ban. After thorough evaluation, Tomlinscote and several other secondary schools in the trust have decided that Yondr Pouches offer the most effective solution for maintaining our phone-free environment throughout the school day.

How the Yondr Pouch System Works

The Yondr Pouch system is a magnet-based system:

- On arriving at school, students will use a magnet to unlock the pouch, place their phone inside the pouch and lock the pouch using the button mechanism
- At the end of the day, students will tap their pouch against the magnet and the pouch will unlock
- Students will need to place the following items in their pouches:
 - Mobile phones
 - Smart watches
 - Smart glasses
 - Bluetooth headphones
 - Any other smart technology

All of these items will become prohibited items from September 2026. Only wired headphones for use with school iPads will be permitted.

Next Steps

In the next couple of weeks, a number of things will take place:

- There will be an onsite visit to work out how many fixed external magnets we will need and where these will be placed
- The school behaviour policy will be updated to reflect that phones, smart watches, smart glasses and Bluetooth headphones are all now prohibited items
- Parents of students who have a medical condition which requires monitoring via smartphone will be contacted separately about the arrangements for them
- We will be providing parents with more detailed information about the system, as well as sharing explainer videos and FAQs
- Students will receive similar information in school via assemblies

We understand that changes to mobile phone policies can raise questions, and we're committed to keeping you fully informed throughout this process. I have been working closely with Mr Taylor, Vice Principal, to implement this policy and ensure a smooth transition ahead of my arrival in September. Mr Taylor will be the point of contact if you have any concerns or questions following our more detailed information about the system.

We're confident that the Yondr Pouch system will support our students' wellbeing, focus and engagement, building on the strong phone-free culture we've already established together.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Venton

Tomlinscote Principal from September 2026