

10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

## Yondr Phone Pouches – Update 2

As you will be aware, City Academy Bristol will become a phone-free school this term. The date we have set for the launch is **Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>** and I am writing to inform you of the steps we are taking before the day and on the day to ensure a smooth implementation process.

### Parent information events

We are running information events whereby we are able to talk through the process of using pouches. This is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The dates and times are:

- A coffee morning on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 9:30am-10:30am
- An information evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 4pm – 4:30pm
- An information evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 5pm – 5:30pm
- A coffee morning on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 9:30am-10:30am

### Trialling entering school with phones switched off

As a school we accept that the process of checking pupils have turned their phones off and placed them in pouches at the start of the day poses some challenges logistically. As such, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June we began the process of assessing how quickly we can get pupils to enter the building whilst showing us that their phones are switched off.

We believe that getting pupils used to turning off their phones and showing a member of staff that it is off will shorten the amount of time it will take for pupils to enter the building on launch week.

### Understanding how many pupils enter the building without a phone

We are aware that some children do not have a mobile phone or choose not to bring it to school. We welcome this as a school, and if this is the case ask you to fill out this online form: [CAB Phone Pouch Exemption – Fill in form](#)



You can also access the form using the QR code:

You only need to fill out this form if your child **will not be bringing** a mobile phone to school from July 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have multiple children attending City Academy Bristol who will not be bringing a mobile phone then you will have to fill it out multiple times.

## Pride, Honesty and Team Spirit

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By completing this form, you agree to notify City Academy Bristol if your child were to start bringing a mobile phone to school. In addition, you accept that if your child is found to be in possession of a mobile phone then the phone will be stored in school until such a time that it is collected by a parent or guardian.

### **Tutor time work**

We are doing continued work during tutor time to explain the reasons behind becoming a phone-free school and the benefits of having time away from screens. If you feel that your child is going to find this transition difficult, and would like them to practice using a pouch before July 6th please feel free to contact the school. Any queries can be sent to [info@cab.clf.uk](mailto:info@cab.clf.uk).

### **On the 6<sup>th</sup> July and beyond**

All pupils who bring a phone to school will be given their own pouch during tutor in the morning. They will be asked to turn their phone off and then close the pouch. Pouches will then be unlocked at the end of the day. We plan to stagger the leaving times by year groups on that first day to ensure an orderly end to the day.

Pupils will place the pouch in their bag and take it home with them. The following day on their entrance to school, pupils will unlock their pouch, switch off their phone and then close their pouch. This will be supervised by staff members on entry.

The pouch remains the property of City Academy and any damage will incur a cost of £15 for a replacement pouch.

Pouch checks will be carried out at various times throughout the school day to ensure pouches are being used correctly.

We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible chance of being successful at City Academy Bristol and beyond. We believe that becoming a phone-free school is a crucial part of that journey and thank you in advance for your support.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Parent Information Evenings.

Best wishes,



Ben Tucker, Principal, City Academy

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Morning and Afternoon Procedures

#### How quick is the unlocking process?

The unlocking process is quick and students typically do not need to break stride. While students are getting used to unlocking pouches, staff will be on hand with mobile unlocking stations to stop queues forming in the first few weeks. Additional stations will be added if required.

#### What if my child arrives late or needs to be dismissed early?

The reception office will have an unlocking device for students arriving late or leaving early.

#### Will my child's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch safely in their bags. While the pouch will provide some protection, it's not a protective case, so students should continue to handle their phones care.

#### What happens if a student forgets to open their pouch at the end of the day?

Be believe occurrences of this nature will be rare. All students funnel past the unlocking stations at exit points and typically want their phones back. If a student arrives home with their phone still in the pouch, they can either return to school to unlock it or enjoy a phone-free evening.

#### What happens if a student forgets to bring in their pouch?

The student's phone will be collected and securely stored in the reception office until the end of the day. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures. If the pouch is repeatedly forgotten, it will be treated as lost and a replacement fee of £15 will be charged. We suggest students keep pouches in their school bags, and they remain locked when they are not in use.

### Daily Pouch Use

#### What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?

We have an alternative solution for the small number of students who require their phones for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes and medical shunts). We will be in touch with these families if they have informed us of their medical condition.

#### My child currently doesn't bring a phone to school, how will this work for them?

We require you to email [info@cab.clf.uk](mailto:info@cab.clf.uk) and we will send you further communication.

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### What happens if a phone is seen outside of a pouch?

If a student is found in possession of a phone **outside their pouch** on the school site, the phone will be confiscated and returned when a parent/guardian picks it up from the school site. The pupil will also receive a sanction in line with our behaviour policy.

Bag searches may be conducted if staff have concerns that a student has a mobile phone on them that hasn't been placed into their pouch.

### What if the pouch gets damaged?

Any attempt to tamper with the pouch, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious offence**, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £15, confiscation of the device until collected by a parent and a sanction in line with our behaviour policy.

If accidental damage occurs, students must report it immediately. If damage is discovered during checks and has not been reported, it may be considered **intentional**. Students will be provided with guidelines to lock their pouch when they leave school to avoid any accidental damage.

The pouch should not be used as a replacement for a protective case and/or screen protector on a mobile device.

We will be conducting random pouch/spot checks over the full academic year to assess the condition of the pouches.

## Emergencies

### What if there is a school emergency?

In an emergency, the priority is for students to follow school safety procedures under staff guidance. Unauthorised phone use during such situations may:

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Put students and staff at increased risk
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding efforts

Emergency communications will be managed through the school.

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