

5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

### Yondr Phone Pouches

At City Academy Bristol, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. In light of recent government guidance and the challenges of managing mobile phones in schools, we have decided to change our mobile phone policy.

Beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, we will launch a pouch system for mobile phones in school. This is a system where students place their phones in a lockable magnetic pouch upon arrival, which stays with them all day and is unlocked at designated stations at the end of the day.

We believe the expected benefits for staff and students include:

- Improved attention and engagement in lessons.
- Fewer interruptions to teaching and learning.
- Greater participation in classroom discussion.
- Reduced opportunities for off-task behaviour.
- Increased face-to-face interaction between students.

Teachers in schools with robust phone-free systems frequently report fewer distractions and improved classroom culture. The rationale for CAB to be a phone-free school extends beyond academic outcomes. Mobile phones can also contribute to:

- Constant social comparison.
- Anxiety linked to notifications and social media.
- Cyberbullying that continues throughout the school day.
- Reduced opportunities for genuine social interaction.

We believe that the new mobile phone policy will have long-lasting benefits for all pupils in terms of safety and achievement.

### How the Programme Works

Each student will be assigned a pouch - a secure, lockable case for storing personal devices. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition.

## Pride, Honesty and Team Spirit

PRINCIPAL: MR BEN TUCKER CEO: MR STEVE TAYLOR | THE CITY ACADEMY, RUSSELL TOWN AVENUE. REDFIELD, BS5 9JH  
TEL: 0117 9413800 EMAIL: [CABINFO@CLF.UK](mailto:CABINFO@CLF.UK) | [WWW.CITYACADEMY.BRISTOL.SCH.UK](http://WWW.CITYACADEMY.BRISTOL.SCH.UK)

- Upon arrival: Students power off all smart technology including their mobile phones and smart watches, place all devices in the pouch, and lock it in front of the duty teachers at each entrance.
- During the day: Students keep the locked pouch in their bag.
- At dismissal: Students unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices. The phone and pouch are taken home by the student ready for the next school day.

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine.

### Staying Connected

With student safety as our top priority, we will follow our standard safety protocols in the event of an emergency. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact our reception office at 0117 9413800.


We know that change takes partnership—and we're here to support a smooth transition for your family. To walk through the programme and answer your questions we will send out a video that can be watched online in the coming weeks.

In addition to that we'll be hosting the following information sessions:

- A coffee morning on the 18th June 9:30am-10:30am
- An information evening on 18th June from 4pm – 4:30pm
- An information evening on 18th June from 5pm – 5:30pm
- A coffee morning on the 25th June 9:30am-10:30am

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a focused, present, and positive school environment for every student.

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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