

Background

At Babington Academy, we're committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities – but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Our goal is to promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment whilst encouraging responsible use of technology. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone policy that incorporates the Yondr programme <https://www.veryondr.com/>.

We believe that every learner deserves the chance to experience a phone-free education and Yondr pouches provide a simple, secure way of supporting this approach across our school. This approach provides a balanced solution, ensuring young people retain possession of their phones while minimising distractions during school hours. The Pouch helps foster social interaction, improve focus on learning, and reduce stress associated with phone use, all while maintaining communication for families during travel to and from school.

Learner Phone Policy & Guidelines

Our school is a phone-free community. Each learner will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch and they are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in good working condition. **Phones and wearable tech will be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until dismissal.**

Daily Process

Upon arrival, learners will:

- 1) Turn their phone off **or** switch it to airplane mode.
- 2) Place their phone and wearable tech inside their Yondr pouch and lock it **in the presence of school staff.**
- 3) Keep the pouched phone with them throughout the school day, **and store it in a backpack.**

At the end of the day, learners will unlock their pouch, retrieve their phone and tech, and re-close the pouch to protect the locking mechanism from damage. Pouches must be brought to and from school each day.

Note: Learners arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the Main Office.

Procedures and Sanctions

Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals

Learners arriving late or leaving early must pouch/ unpouch their phones and wearable tech at the Late Desk or main school reception.

Forgotten Pouches

The learner's phone will be collected and securely stored in the office until the end of the day. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures. If a learner forgets a pouch for a second day then the learner's phone will be collected and securely stored in the office until the end of the day where a parent/carer will be required to collect it.

If the pouch is repeatedly forgotten their pouch will be treated as lost and a replacement fee of £15 will be charged via parent pay.

Phone Use During the School Day

If a learner is found in possession of a phone **outside their pouch** on school site the phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. The phone will be returned once a parent/guardian collects it. A C3.14 will be issued to the learner, parents/carers contacted and a suspension may be issued.

If a learner is found in possession of a phone outside their pouch and refuses to hand it over then parents/carers will be contacted and a suspension may be issued.

Bag searches may be conducted if teachers have concerns that a learner has a mobile device on them that hasn't been placed into their pouch.

Damaged Pouches

Any attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious offence**, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £15, confiscation until a parent/guardian picks it up and suspension.

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**.

The following examples may indicate intentional damage:

- ❖ Ripped or cut fabric
- ❖ Bent or cut pin
- ❖ Signs of force to the black locking mechanism
- ❖ Pen marks inside the pouch
- ❖ Pouch opening without a station



- ❖ Scuff marks on the black ball

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

Emergencies and Safeguarding

Communications During the School Day

Parents/ carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via the **school office** on 0116 2221616. We will then pass this message onto your child.

Medical Conditions

Learners who require access to their mobile devices for specific medical purposes will be provided with a medical pouch.

Emergency Procedures

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

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Put learners and staff at increased risk
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding measures

Emergency communications will be managed through the school.