

15 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of an important update to our approach to mobile phones and personal electronic devices at The Bewdley School, which will come into effect from **22 June 2026**.

At The Bewdley School, we are committed to ensuring that all students are able to learn in a calm, focused, and safe environment. While we recognise that mobile phones are an important part of modern life and can support learning outside school, they can also present significant distractions and challenges during the school day.

Our approach: A smartphone-free school day

In line with national [guidance](#), The Bewdley School will operate a phone-free school day.

This means that:

- Mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds and similar devices must not be used, seen or heard during the school day
- Devices may be brought to school for travel purposes only
- All devices must be switched off and secured in a YONDR pouch immediately upon arrival and remain so until the end of the school day

This approach is designed to support students in being Ready, Respectful and Safe, while reducing unnecessary distractions and promoting wellbeing.

How the system will work

- All students will enter via a single point of entry through the Main School Entrance off Stourport Road each morning. All other Entry Points to the school will be locked. Students will not be permitted to enter the main school site via the reception area until 8.00am.
- On arrival:
 - Phones must be switched off
 - Devices must be placed in a YONDR pouch - staff will check this as part of the start of day routine
 - Students who forget their mobile phone will be screened/searched via handheld security 'wands'
- The pouch will remain with the student but cannot be opened during the day
- At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouch at designated stations

If a pouch is forgotten, the phone will be handed in at Reception and returned at the end of the school day.

Why we are making this change

We are introducing this approach to:

- maximise learning time and reduce distraction
- support strong behaviour and engagement in lessons
- reduce issues linked to social media and online interactions
- promote positive relationships between students
- support student wellbeing

Research consistently shows that reducing access to mobile phones during the school day has a positive impact on focus, behaviour and overall school culture.

Expectations and consequences

We will support all students to meet these expectations and will ensure a consistent and fair approach. Where expectations are not met, the following may apply in line with our Behaviour Policy:

- confiscation of the device
- internal/external suspension or detention
- escalation for repeated or more serious breaches (e.g. refusal, bringing a second phone, or attempting to bypass the system)

Deliberate damage to pouches or use of unauthorised unlocking tools will result in a replacement charge and further sanctions.

Our approach is clear, consistent and proportionate, ensuring a fair experience for all students.

Support and reasonable adjustments

We recognise that a small number of students may require additional support.

Where there is a documented medical need (doctor's/consultant letter), alternative arrangements can be agreed in advance. These will be:

- recorded formally
- shared with relevant staff
- implemented in a way that maintains safeguarding expectations

Communication during the school day

If you need to contact your child urgently, please do so via school Reception, and we will ensure the message is passed on promptly.

If a student needs to contact home, this will always be supported by staff and may do so via their Pastoral Leader, or Pastoral Manager.

Working in partnership

We believe this change will have a significant positive impact on students' learning, behaviour and wellbeing.

As with any change, your support is essential. We ask that you:

- reinforce these expectations with your child
- ensure they bring their YONDR pouch each day
- support the school in maintaining high standards

A detailed Parent FAQ document and Mobile Phone Policy is included to support your understanding and answer common questions.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Hadley-Pryce
Head Teacher



Mobile Phone Policy - Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can my child still bring a mobile phone/EarPods/headphones etc to school?

Yes. Students may bring a mobile phone and personal technology for travel purposes. However, they must be switched off and secured in a YONDR pouch as soon as they arrive on site and remain so until the end of the school day.

2. Can students access their phone during break or lunch?

No. The school operates a smartphone-free school day, meaning phones must not be used, seen or heard at any point during the school day, including at break and lunchtime.

3. What is a YONDR pouch and how does it work?

Each student will be issued with a secure, lockable YONDR pouch.

- Students place their phone inside when they arrive
- The pouch is locked and remains with them throughout the day
- It can only be unlocked at designated stations at the end of the day

This ensures phones are safely stored but not accessible.

4. What if my child needs to contact me during the school day?

Students can speak to a member of staff, who will support them to make contact home if needed. If you need to contact your child urgently, please do so via school reception, and the message will be passed on promptly.

5. What happens if my child forgets their YONDR pouch?

If a pouch is forgotten:

- The phone will be handed in at Reception
- It will be stored securely during the day
- It will be returned to the student at the end of the day

6. What happens if my child breaks the rules?

We will always support students to meet expectations. However, where this does not happen, sanctions will be applied in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Examples include:

- Phone confiscation
- Detentions or internal/external suspension
- Escalation for repeated or serious breaches (e.g. bringing a second phone or attempting to bypass the system)

Our approach is clear, consistent and proportionate.

7. What happens if a student refuses to use the pouch?

Refusal to follow the system will result in graduated sanctions, including internal suspension and extended school day, with further escalation if necessary.

8. What if a student tries to bypass the system?

This includes:

- Bringing a second ("burner") phone
- Attempting to unlock and/or damage the pouch



- Using unauthorised tools

These are treated as **serious breaches** and will result in stronger sanctions and parental contact.

9. What if the pouch is damaged or lost?

Students are expected to look after the pouch as they are property of the school.

- Damage will result in a replacement charge (£20)
- Further sanctions may also apply

10. Will the school be responsible for lost or damaged phones?

No. Students are responsible for their own devices, and the school does not accept liability for loss, damage or theft. We recommend that devices are insured.

11. What about smartwatches, headphones or other devices?

The same rules apply.

All personal electronic devices must be secured in the YONDR pouch unless agreed in advance (e.g. medical need).

12. Are there any exceptions?

Yes, in limited circumstances.

Where a student has a documented medical need (doctor's/consultant letter), appropriate adjustments can be agreed.

All adjustments:

- Must be agreed in advance
- Will be clearly recorded and shared with staff
- Will still maintain appropriate safeguarding expectations

13. Why is the school introducing this approach?

This decision is based on strong evidence that reducing mobile phone access during the school day:

- improves focus and academic engagement
- supports behaviour and reduces disruption
- promotes positive social interaction
- benefits student wellbeing

It also reduces safeguarding risks linked to camera use and online activity.

14. How does the school ensure this is fair?

The system is applied consistently to all students, with:

- clear routines at the start of the day
- regular staff checks
- consistent use of sanctions

This ensures fairness and clarity for all.

15. What about school trips?

Students would not be able to use their phones/electronic equipment on school trips/visits and would be required to use their YONDR pouch. Visit Leaders would exercise their discretion on residential and/or reward visits.

16. Can I raise a concern or complaint?

Yes.



If you have any concerns, you can contact the school directly.
Formal complaints can be made in line with the school's Complaints Policy.

17. When will the school be making this change?

Students will be issued with a YONDR pouch on Monday 22 June 2026. The policy comes into effect from this date. Please note that the YONDR pouch is property of The Bewdley School.

18. How can I support my child with this change?

You can support by:

- reinforcing expectations at home
- ensuring your child brings their pouch each day
- encouraging them to follow staff instructions
- discussing the importance of focus, wellbeing and respectful behaviour

