



Lutterworth High School

Mobile phone pouches

A guide for families

For many years Lutterworth High School has followed a policy where mobile phones are away and out of sight during the school day, except where used in lessons for educational purposes. This has worked very well with students readily following the expectation. In 2026 the government legislated that schools must become mobile phone free. We welcome this change and feel that this will provide further benefits as students can be completely phone free with no temptation to check their notifications. Following extensive consultation with parents/ carers, staff and students we have made the decision to introduce mobile phone pouches. Our pouches are from a company called Yondr and we have chosen them for their high durability.

This guide explains how the pouches work, what students need to do each day and how the school will respond when a pouch is forgotten, lost or damaged.

What is a mobile phone pouch?

A Yondr pouch is a secure, lockable pouch in which a student places their mobile phone and other personal connected devices.

Once the pouch has been locked:

- the student keeps the pouch with them
- the devices remain safely inside
- the pouch cannot be opened without using one of the school's unlocking points
- the student cannot access or use the devices during the school day

The pouch is designed to hold mobile phones, smartwatches, internet-enabled watches, wireless earbuds and other personal communication or connected devices. All such devices brought to school must be switched off and secured inside the pouch.

Why are we introducing pouches?

The decision has not been driven by poor behaviour. The overwhelming majority of students already follow our expectations appropriately.

However, smartphones and other connected devices create a constant source of potential interruption. Even when a device is not being used openly, the expectation of messages, notifications and online activity can compete for a young person's attention.

We want students to be fully present during the school day. This means being able to:

- concentrate fully in lessons
- think deeply and retain information

- speak to friends without digital interruption
- participate in the wider life of the school
- enjoy a genuine break from social media and constant connectivity

The introduction of pouches also supports the national expectation that schools should take effective action to prevent mobile phone use during the school day.

What are the benefits for students?

Pouches will provide a clear and consistent system across the school.

Students will continue to keep possession of their devices, but will not be able to access them during the day. This reduces the need for staff to investigate discreet phone use and removes uncertainty about when devices may or may not be used.

We expect the system to support:

- improved concentration and engagement in lessons
- fewer distractions during social times
- stronger face-to-face relationships
- reduced pressure to check messages or social media
- greater participation in school life
- a calmer and more purposeful environment

The aim is not simply to remove phones. It is to create a school day in which students can learn, talk, think and develop without constant digital interruption.

Which devices are covered by this policy?

The devices covered by this policy are all mobile phones, connected watches and earphones. All connected devices must be able to fit in the pouch. This means that over the ear earphones are not permitted in school.

Students who have laptops will be expected to keep them in their bag during break and lunchtime unless they are working with a member of staff present.

How will pouches be introduced?

We are implementing pouches in the first week after the October half-term. On the Monday morning students will be given their pouch during an extended tutor period. All students will attend assemblies to explain how the pouches will work, the daily routine and school expectations.

Each student will be issued with a pouch free of charge. On the inside will be written a unique identification number which will link the pouch to that student. The students will also complete the label with their name and form group.

The start of the school day

On entering the school the students will open their pouch at one of the unlocking stations. They will then hold their pouch in their hands and go to tutor.

In the tutor room they will place their phone and any other connected devices, pouch and planner on the desk. The students will turn off their phones. The Form tutor will scan the room and then instruct the students when to place their phones in their pouches. The students will lock their pins and then place their pouch up in the air to show that the pin is locked.

During the school day

The pouch must remain securely locked during the school day.

Students must not:

- attempt to open the pouch
- ask another person to open it
- interfere with its lock, pin, lining or material
- carry a second or concealed device
- place a dummy device inside the pouch
- carry an empty locked pouch while keeping a device elsewhere
- use any other method intended to avoid the system

Students must keep their pouch safe and bring it with them every day that they bring a covered device to school.

Where a member of staff has a reasonable concern, the student may be asked to show that their devices are secured inside the pouch.

Any attempt to avoid the purpose or spirit of the system will be treated as a serious breach of school expectations.

At the end of the school day

There are more than 15 unlocking points around the school site. These are strategically positioned to allow students to quickly unlock their devices and go home either by foot or on the buses.

If a student is in L4 after school detention they will be expected to place their locked phone pouch on the desk during the detention. They can then unlock their device after the detention.

Arriving late and leaving early

Students who are late will lock their pouches in the main reception. If a student does not have their pouch they will hand their phone in at main reception.

Students leaving early will unlock their pouches in main reception when they leave.

What happens if a student forgets their pouch?

The student will take their phone to student reception where it will be safely stored for the day. The school will adopt a graduated approach if the student continues to forget their pouch. On the next occasion the student will receive a level 3 detention. Further repeated incidents of leaving the pouch at home will be dealt with through the school behaviour policy. We strongly recommend that the pouch stays in the school bag at all times.

What happens if a student forgets their phone?

If a student forgets their phone then the school may conduct a search, if deemed necessary.

What happens if a pouch is lost?

On the pouch there is an insert where students can write their name and form. On the inside of the pouch there is a unique number linked to the student

A lost pouch must be replaced.

A replacement costs **£16** and must be purchased through the school Scopay.

Until a replacement has been obtained, the student must hand in their phone to student reception each day.

What happens if a pouch is damaged?

Students are responsible for looking after their pouch

Damage includes, but is not limited to:

- writing or drawing on the pouch, other than adding the student's name
- cutting, tearing or piercing the material
- damaging the locking pin or mechanism
- removing or interfering with the lining
- forcing the pouch open
- making any alteration that affects its appearance or operation

Where a pouch has been deliberately damaged or tampered with:

- the incident will receive a behavioural sanction
- a replacement pouch must be purchased for £16 through the school Scopay.

A pouch that develops a genuine fault through normal use will be replaced free of charge, provided there is no evidence of deliberate damage or tampering.

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

What happens if a device is found outside the pouch?

A device found outside a locked pouch during the school day will be confiscated immediately. This includes bringing into school a second device.

The student will also receive a Level 5 internal suspension. Repeated breaches may result in a fixed term suspension.

The confiscated device will not be returned directly to the student. It must be collected from the main reception, which is open from 8am to 4.30pm, by a parent or carer. Consent from a parent or carer must be provided before a device can be released to another adult.

The device will remain with the school until an authorised adult is able to collect it.

Refusal to hand over a device, defiance towards staff or other related behaviour will be dealt with separately through the school's behaviour policy.

Can students be searched to see if they have a mobile phone?

Under Sections 89-91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and DfE statutory guidance,

authorised staff have the power to search a student or their possessions if there are reasonable grounds to suspect they are carrying a prohibited item, including an undeclared mobile phone.

Random bag checks may also be carried out.

Pouch checks will occur on a regular basis. The member of staff will have an unlocking device. Pouches will be checked for deliberate damage and that the pouch does contain the mobile phone and connected items.

What if my child has a medical condition which requires access to a phone?

Some students need access to their device for a diagnosed medical condition, for example to monitor blood glucose levels. If this is the case, the student will be given a specially adapted pouch.

We will use our existing Individual Health Care Plans (IHCPs) to identify students who will require medical access.

How to contact your child during the school day?

Parents and carers can continue to contact the school on 01455 552710.

Where a message is genuinely urgent, the school will ensure that the appropriate information reaches the student.

Examples may include:

- an unexpected change to transport arrangements
- a family emergency
- an urgent change affecting collection at the end of the day

The school cannot routinely pass on general messages, reminders or information that is not time-critical. This is necessary to ensure that staff capacity remains focused on teaching, safeguarding and the effective operation of the school.

This does not represent a change from our existing arrangements. Phones are already expected to be switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

What if a student needs to contact home?

During a lesson, a student who believes they need to contact home should speak to their teacher. During break or lunchtime, the student should speak to Student Reception.

Where staff agree that contact is necessary, the student will be supported to use a school telephone.

Students should not expect to access their personal phone for routine messages or arrangements that could have been made before the school day.

Who has responsibility for the pouches and devices?

Students are responsible for the security and condition of both their personal devices and their allocated pouch.

The pouch should:

- be clearly named

- be brought to school whenever the student brings a covered device
- be kept safely in the student's bag
- remain with the student during holidays
- be retained throughout the student's time at the school.

As with the current arrangements, personal devices are brought onto the school site at the owner's risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to personal devices, except where it is legally responsible.

What will happen on school visits?

This will depend upon the nature of the trip and whether there is any remote supervision of the students. Students are expected to follow the guidance and expectations of the trip leader.

What will happen with co-curricular clubs and fixtures?

Students will be able to unlock their devices at the end of the normal school day. Students can then check their devices for any travel arrangements and then place their phones away.

Students attending away fixtures will unlock their devices as they leave the school premises for the fixture.

What if I have decided not to give my child a mobile phone?

Please notify the school on phones@lutterworthhigh.co.uk if your child does not have a mobile phone. They will not be issued with a pouch.

We must be informed immediately if you do decide to purchase a phone for your child so that they can be issued with a pouch.

How will students pay for charity events and bake sales?

The school will continue to be a cashless school. Students will be able to make their purchases using their debit card. Phones will remain in pouches. We will continue to give students plenty of notice of upcoming events.

What happens when my child leaves school?

At the end of year 11 all pouches will be collected to be recycled. All pouches remain the property of the school.