



SELWOOD ACADEMY

ANGLICAN/METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOOL

---part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership---

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Selwood Academy, we're committed to creating a learning environment where every pupil 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. Beginning 7th September 2026, we will launch the [Yondr Phone-Free Schools Programme](#). This isn't just about limiting screen time, it's about giving pupils the space to think deeply, engage meaningfully, and thrive in an environment designed for their growth.

What will this look like?

Monday 7th September 2026, each pupil will be assigned a Yondr pouch - a secure, lockable case for storing personal devices (Phone, smart watches and headphones). Pupils are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition.

- **Upon arrival:** Pupils power off all smart technology including their mobile phones and smart watches, place all devices in the pouch, and lock it in front of a teacher.
- **During the day:** Pupils keep the locked pouch in their bag.
- **At dismissal:** Pupils unlock pouches at designated stations or with their period 5 teacher to retrieve their devices. The phone and pouch is taken home by the pupil ready for the next school day.

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine. We will go through this with all pupils on their first day.

Staying Connected

With pupil 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 main office at 01373 462798.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dave Finlay- **Head of School**

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16
Executive Head Teacher: Mr Daniel Jeffries BA(Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

Selwood Academy, Berkley Road, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2EF
 Telephone: 01373 462798
 email: enquiries@selwood.mnsp.org.uk web: www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk



Frequently Asked Questions

Morning and Afternoon Procedures

How quick is the unlocking process?

The unlocking process is quick and easy. Staff will be on hand to support.

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

The main office and the Compass Centre will have an unlocking device for pupils arriving late or leaving early.

Will my child's phone be safe?

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

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

In Yondr's experience, this rarely happens. All pupils will get their devices unlocked during period 5 or funnel past the unlocking stations at exit points and typically want their phones back. If a pupil 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 pupils phone will be collected and securely stored in the Compass Centre 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 will be needed. This will be charged to families. We suggest pupils 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 pupils who require their phones for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes and medical shunts). The SENCO will be in touch with these families if they have informed us of their medical condition.

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

We will be sending out a google form in September to collect a list of pupils who will not have a phone. If a pupil who has this form signed, is found with a phone, the relationship for learning policy will be followed.

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

If a pupil is found in possession of a phone **outside their pouch** on school site the phone will be confiscated and the relationship for learning policy followed.

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

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?

Any intentional damage or an attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious offence**, resulting in a **replacement fee of £18**, confiscation of the device and the relationship for learning policy will be followed..

If accidental damage occurs, pupils must report it immediately. If damage is discovered during checks and has not been reported, it may be considered **intentional**. Pupils 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 pupils 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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