What is the aim of this scheme?

Our vision is *"Igniting Excellence and Empower Individuality."* The Yondr pouch initiative supports us in achieving this vision. As a "device-free school," we are addressing the negative impact of mobile devices on mental health, concentration, and social interactions.

This policy aligns with Department for Education's acknowledgement of the negative impact mobile phones can have on students' mental health, focus and overall wellbeing during the school day. The Department for Education endorses schools adopting measures as we are. Teenagers report that mobile phone usage and social media are common sources of anxiety, can lead to sleep disturbance and disengagement from school. A recent study by The University of Cambridge showed that 48% of British teenagers feel addicted to social media. We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting students, and families, to combat this. Together, we are creating a school community where every learner feels supported to engage, respect and achieve their best.

Who pays for the pouches?

Tarleton Academy has invested in Yondr pouches for all students in Years 7 to 11 as part of our commitment to creating a focused learning environment. To ensure a consistent experience for all students and to remove any potential financial barriers, Tarleton Academy is pleased to provide Yondr pouches to families at no cost. If a pouch is damaged or lost, families will be charged a replacement fee. This ensures all students can continue benefiting from the initiative.

Is it the school's responsibility if devices are damaged within the pouch?

No, students remain responsible for their devices, as the pouches are designed to provide protection during normal school activities. We encourage students to take care of their possessions.

Will students use the same pouch throughout their time at Tarleton Academy?

Yes; students are expected to take care of their pouch during their time at Tarleton Academy.

How do the pouches lock?

The pouch features a secure locking pin at the top. Students will push it into the locked position when they arrive on-site each morning.

What if devices are accidentally locked in the pouch outside school hours?

In such cases, the pouch can only be unlocked when the student returns to school. Students are advised to lock their pouch when they retrieve their phone from their pouch at the end of the school day. This protects the pouch and ensures that their phone is accessible to them.

Can the pouch be used at home?

While it is possible, the pouch cannot be unlocked until the student returns to school.

What if a student chooses not to bring smart devices to school?

Students are welcome to leave their devices at home. Staff will conduct spot checks to ensure this is being communicated honestly. This will include the use of the 'wand metal detector' to ensure a mobile phone is not being carried.

Can the Yondr pouches be personalised?

No. The pouches remain school property and are designed to be uniform for all students. Pouches have identification labels, provided by school, which are unique to each student. Each student who joins at the start of Year 7 will be provided with a new pouch.

What should be placed in the pouch?

Mobile phones must be placed in the pouch. We also encourage students to place their smartwatches and ear pods in the pouch.

How bulky are the pouches?

The pouches are lightweight and compact, made from slightly padded material. They fit easily into bags and blazer pockets.

Do the pouches have a tracking device?

No. The pouches are not equipped with tracking features.

Can I track my child's phone while it's in the pouch?

Yes. Tracking functionalities on phones will still work while they are secured, in silent mode, in the pouch.

What happens if the pouch gets wet?

Accidental spills are not an issue as the pouch is water-repellent. However, it is not entirely waterproof so care should still be taken.

Start of the School Day Routine

What is expected as students arrive on site?

The school will open to students from 8.30, with entrances via the Ribble gate. Upon arrival, staff will be present to welcome students and ensure that their devices are properly secured in their Yondr pouches. Students will not be permitted on-site until staff have confirmed that devices are locked in the pouch. This ensures a consistent and distraction-free environment for everyone. Form Tutors will then complete a second check of pouches on arrival to morning registration.

What if students are late to school?

Students arriving late will be required to report to reception, sign in, and follow the necessary process with the member of staff on duty. The Yondr pouch will be checked by the member of staff on duty and before students enter the main school building. Once signed in, they will proceed directly to their form tutor or their scheduled lesson. Punctuality is essential to ensure a smooth start to the school day.

What if my child does not have a device or bring devices to school?

In such cases, students will be issued a pass signed by parents, confirming that they do not bring devices to school. This helps maintain transparency and consistency in the implementation of the Yondr pouch initiative. They will mirror the process of locking the pass, instead of their mobile phone, in the Yondr pouch in preparation for such a time as they do have a device.

What if a parent or carer needs to contact their child urgently?

Parents should contact the school reception for any urgent communication with their child. This ensures that such matters are managed promptly and appropriately without disrupting the school day.

What if a student needs to contact a parent or carer urgently?

Students needing to contact their parents urgently should do so through the school reception. This approach ensures that communication is managed efficiently and in alignment with school policies and that staff can offer appropriate support or guidance.

Unlocking Yondr Pouches

How will queues be managed at unlocking stations?

Multiple unlocking stations will be strategically located in high-traffic areas to avoid delays.

What if students forget to unlock their devices before leaving school?

Staff will remind students to unlock their devices before exiting. If forgotten, the device will remain locked until the following morning.

Can students unlock their devices during the school day in case of an emergency?

No. Students who need to contact home must do so through the school office.

Will students needing to catch the bus get priority?

Adequate unlocking stations will ensure all students, including those catching buses, leave on time.

What if a student needs to unlock their pouch for an appointment (e.g. Visiting the dentist) during the day?

Unlocking stations are available at the school office and reception for such instances.

Consequences

What are the consequences if students do not use the pouches correctly?

Any student found with a device not locked in a pouch will have it confiscated. The device will only be returned after three consecutive school days and not at the end of the day or over weekends. This is to reinforce the importance of following school rules. In exceptional circumstances, a basic loan phone can be provided by school for necessary communication during this period. Students will be required to store any loaned device in the Yondr pouch whilst in school.

What happens if a student misuses or refuses to use the pouch?

Such behaviour will be treated as defiance and managed according to the school's Climate for Learning Policy.

Will there be searches to ensure compliance?

Regular spot checks will be conducted by staff to maintain consistent use of the pouches.

What happens if a student brings in a device(s) but forgets the pouch?

Students will need to hand their device(s) to a member of duty staff when they enter site and it will be stored securely until the end of the school day. Students are able to collect devices at the end of the day from the main office.

What if staff suspect a student has a device that is not secured in their locked pouch?

If staff reasonably suspect that a student is carrying a device outside of their locked pouch, a search will be conducted in accordance legislation. If a device is discovered, consequences will be applied in line with our Climate for Learning Policy. These measures are essential for maintaining a fair and respectful environment for everyone.

What if a phone goes off audibly during the school day while in the pouch?

The student will be sent to reception to unlock the pouch and silence the phone. Persistent and repeated issues will result in a consequence for students.

What happens if a student's pouch is taken by another student?

Each pouch is assigned a unique ID. Lost or stolen pouches should be reported immediately to staff. Consequences in line with our Climate for Learning Policy will be applied to those found responsible for theft.

Other Questions

Will students be able to access Chromebooks or computers to support learning?

Yes. Students will continue to have access to school computers as part of their learning. We recognise that technology is a powerful and effective tool to enhance education, and we remain committed to supporting students in using it responsibly to achieve their full academic potential.

How will students be supported in knowing which lessons they have during the school day?

Students will be issued with a paper copy of their timetable at the beginning of each term. Spare copies will be located with their Form Tutor. Tutors will complete a daily equipment check to ensure students have all appropriate equipment for the day ahead. Between lessons, our *Information Point* will be accessible by all students for any queries relating to timetabled lessons.

How will students be supported to tell the time?

Students are encouraged to wear analogue or basic digital watches to manage their time effectively during the school day. To further assist students in keeping track of time, additional clocks are being installed across the school, and the bell system clearly signals important times, including the end of morning breaks, lunch, and class transitions. This ensures everyone stays on schedule and maintains focus.

How will students access their digital wallet which is saved on their phone?

Students can access their phone before and after school to retrieve their bus pass or manage online banking. Our school operates a convenient cashless system with biometric technology in the canteen which eliminates the need for students to use their digital wallets during school hours.