



Stewards Academy

Parent Presentation

# THE PROBLEM IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US

- Schools around the world are seeing the damaging effects of phones.
- Student engagement, academic performance, and social development are declining fast.
- Anxiety, depression, self-harm, and bullying are occurring in higher numbers than any other generation.
- Teachers cite phones-related issues as a significant factor when leaving the profession.

# WHO IS YONDR?

- Founded in Los Angeles in 2014
- They create phone-free spaces at shows, schools, workplaces, events, and more.
- Artists who have used Yondr at their shows include: Madonna, Bob Dylan, Bono, Garth Brooks, Arctic Monkeys, Chris Rock, Dave Chappelle...



## OUR PHONE-FREE SCHOOL

This year, our school will be using the Yondr Program to make our site phone-free.

We will be using a system called Yondr which has been implemented across 35 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

Every student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.



**TODAY, WE ARE  
DISCUSSING...**

**1 - WHY ARE WE GOING PHONE-FREE?**

**2 - WHAT IS YONDR?**

**3 - HOW WILL IT WORK?**

**4 - RESULTS**

**5 - FAQs**

# UK GOVERNMENT ADVISOR ISSUES WARNING ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA'S IMPACT ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



*Mobile phones may be ubiquitous, but we have a strong and growing understanding of how damaging they can be for a child's social and educational development. And it's the least advantaged who suffer most.*

*– Behaviour Advisor DfE  
Tom Bennett OBE*

## The Case for a Smartphone Ban in Schools

Iain Mansfield, Dr Sean Phillips and Niamh Webb

Foreword by Professor Jonathan Haidt

### April 2024 Report surveyed 800 UK schools

Secondary Schools with effective phone bans:

- Were twice as likely to be rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- Achieved GCSE results 1 – 2 grades higher (equivalent to a Progress 8 differential of 0.13 – 0.25)

**\*All this despite the fact that schools with 'effective bans' had a higher proportion of students on free school meals, usually correlated with lower Progress 8 and worse Ofsted ratings.\***

### Types of phone ban

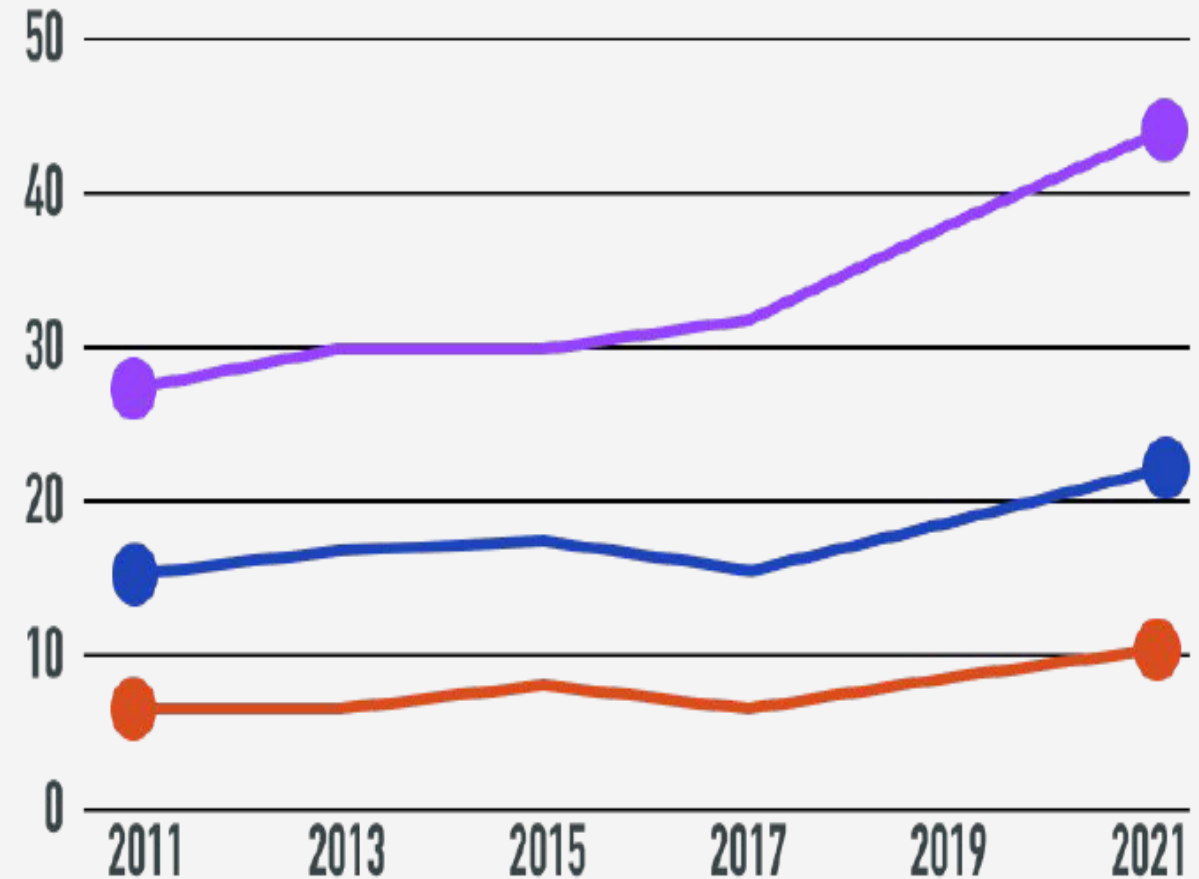
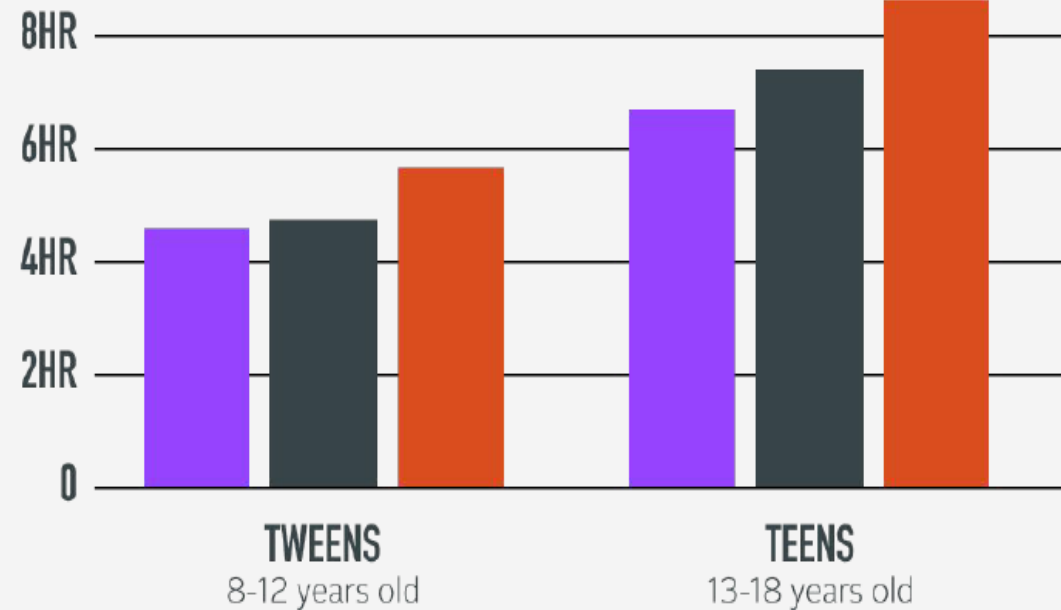
- **Effective Ban.** Phones not allowed in school or stored in lockers, Yondr pouches or equivalent at start of day. (11% of UK schools)
- **Ban but phone present.** Phones banned, but accessible to the student (52%)
- **Partial ban.** Phones banned in some places but allowed in others (36%)
- **No ban** (0%)

# THE DATA ABOUT PHONES AND MENTAL HEALTH IS CLEAR

Significant increase in the percentage of students experiencing mental health issues related to mobile phone use.

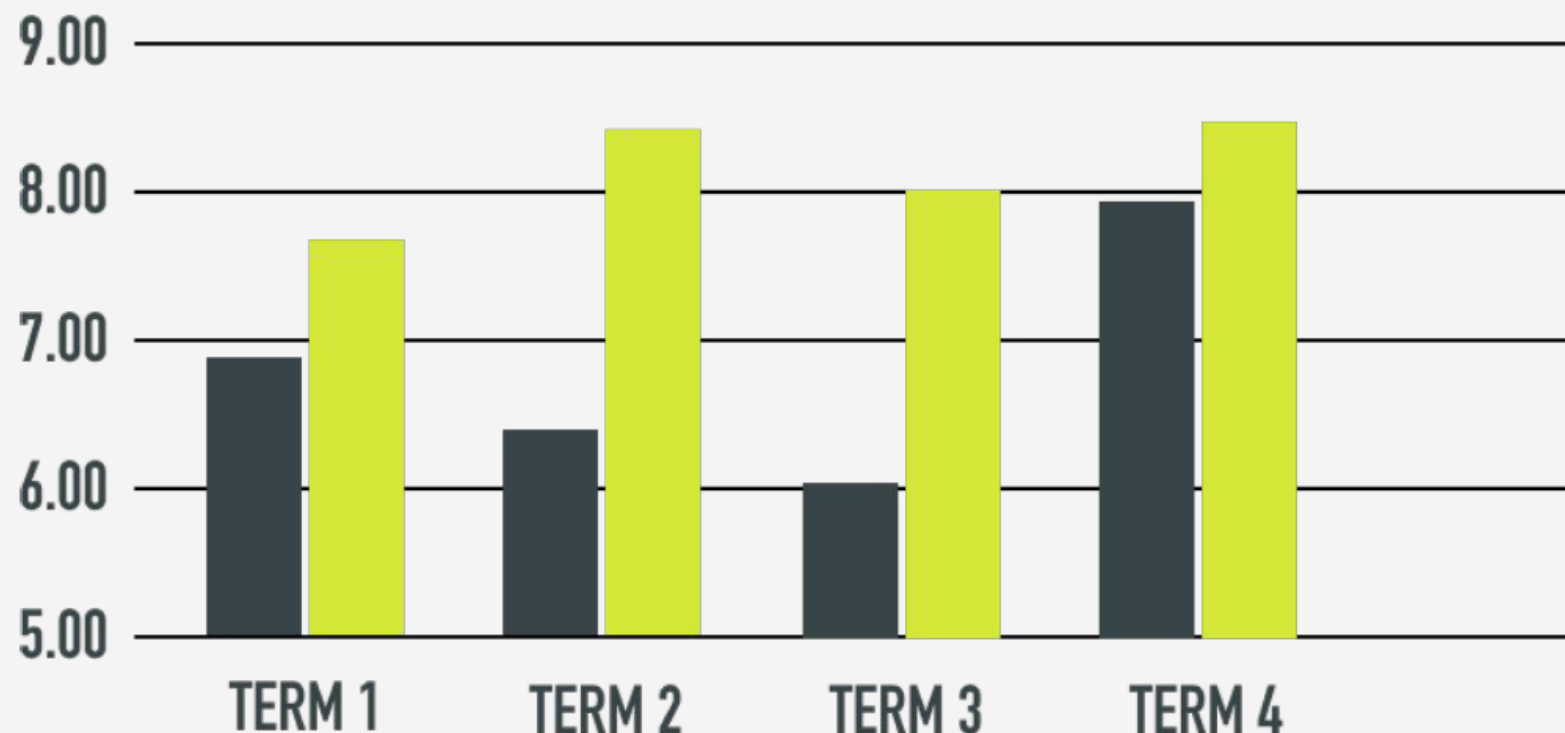
## TOTAL SCREEN TIME PER DAY

2015 2019 2021



## ACADEMIC DATA

Average credits earned by term



### Key Takeaways:

- Credits increased every term with Yondr
- Seasonal slump mitigated with Yondr
- Results continued in an upward trend

THE YONDR PROGRAM SHIELDS STUDENTS FROM THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CELL PHONE USE:  
ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION • SOCIAL ALIENATION • BEHAVIORAL ISSUES • CYBER BULLYING • POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



**HOW MANY HOURS DOES THE  
AVERAGE ADULT SPEND ON  
THEIR PHONE EACH DAY?**

**5 HOURS**

**HOW MANY HOURS DOES A  
TEENAGER SPEND ON THEIR  
PHONE EACH DAY?**

**7+ HOURS**



# THE IMPACT OF PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM



**3 HOURS**

The daily social media use that doubles anxiety and depression risks among youth.

[\\*UNESCO \(2023\)](#)



**15 POINTS**

The decrease in scores of mathematics students when distracted by phones.

[\\*PISA \(2022\)](#)



**20 MINUTES**

The time it takes for students to regain full focus after a nearby phone distraction.

[\\*US Surgeon General \(2024\)](#)



**68 PERCENT**

The percentage of students who report that electronic devices are distracting.

[\\*NIH Study \(2017\)](#)

## WHY ARE WE GOING PHONE-FREE?

Our students deserve a learning environment where they can thrive, free from the distractions of phones and social media.

Yondr schools report dramatic improvements in student wellbeing, academic performance, classroom engagement, and social connection. We want these improvements for our students and know you do, too.





**WATCH THE YONDR PROGRAM IN ACTION**

# HOW IT WORKS

## POUCH

Turn off phone.  
Place inside under  
staff supervision.



## LOCK

Push the lock  
button and take the  
phone to class.



## UNLOCK

Tap green ring to  
magnet and press  
button to unlock.



## ARRIVAL DEMONSTRATION

- Turn phone off or on airplane mode.
- Slide phone into pouch.
- Close the top of the pouch.
- Press the green push-pin button to secure.



## DISMISSAL DEMONSTRATION

- Tap the side with the green circular ring to the unlocking base.
- As you tap the pouch on the base, push the button to release the lock.
- Retrieve your phone and close the pouch back up.
- Keep your pouch with you for the following school day.



## SCHOOLS WHO HAVE IMPLEMENTED YONDR SAY:

“

After 18 months, the school is transformed. Students are more respectful, becoming better learners and becoming more resilient.

— Jayne McLaren, The Hurst School

“

We no longer have any in school cyber bullying

— Russell Stevens, John Hanson

“

Transformational. It has changed the school... There is so much more noise but it's good noise. It's the sound of students talking to each other instead of looking at phones.

— Damian McBeath, John Wallis Academy

# YONDR STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

“ You can really tell the difference now. I’m **concentrating way more in school and my grades have gone up.** Lunchtime is a lot better, because you’re talking to your friends more, instead of just going on your phone. There’s no social media impacting things, and most of the drama comes from social media. **Now there’s not much drama, but there’s still lots to talk about.**

— Lara Daris, Student,  
St Raphaela's Secondary School

“ It will be good to put my phone aside and not be distracted at all.  
— Charlotte, Student, Victoria College

“ It didn’t even take me a week to get used to it, it’s so much better. At lunchtime now we all talk to each other, and no one is on their phone

— Student, Pobalscoil Chorca  
Dhuibhne, Ireland

## RECOMMENDED WATCH:

SWIPED - The school that banned smartphones



This Channel 4 Documentary, hosted by Matt and Emma Willis, demonstrated the impact that managing phone usage had in a UK school.

Full episode available on [Youtube](#) or on 4oD!

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PROCEDURES

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO  
REACH MY CHILD DURING THE  
SCHOOL DAY?**

We want our students to be engaged as much as possible in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the main office who will take the appropriate action.

We are then able to control when this message is passed on to be the least disruptive for your child in class.

## PROCEDURES

**WILL MY CHILD'S PHONE PHONE  
BE SAFE?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch safely in their backpacks.

## PROCEDURES

## WHAT IF THE POUCH IS DAMAGED, LOST, OR STOLEN?



If a student damages or loses their pouch, school staff will collect the phone/pouch and send it to the front office for the remainder of the school day. The student will be assessed an £15 replacement fee.

Examples of damage include:

- Bent pins
- Deep scratches on the plastic globe and the surrounding green ring
- Intentional pen marks on the inside
- Pin and button not fully recessing

## PROCEDURES

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT UNLOCKS THEIR POUCH WITHOUT PERMISSION, DAMAGES IT, OR USES AN ALTERNATE PHONE?**

Students will be sanctioned this might include confiscation, detention, and temporary loss of phone possession privileges.

Pouch checks are an important part of the Yondr Program. We want to ensure that students understand that checks can be done at any time.

Students soon understand that it's better to keep phone in pouch rather than risk confiscation or disciplinary action

## PROCEDURES

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT FORGETS THEIR POUCH?**

If a student forgets their pouch pupils will be expected to hand in their phones which will be stored in the school office for the day. The phone will be returned to the student at dismissal.

If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it will be considered lost. Parents/guardians will be notified, and a replacement pouch will need to be paid for.

## PROCEDURES

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT FORGETS TO OPEN THEIR POUCH AT THE END OF THE DAY?**

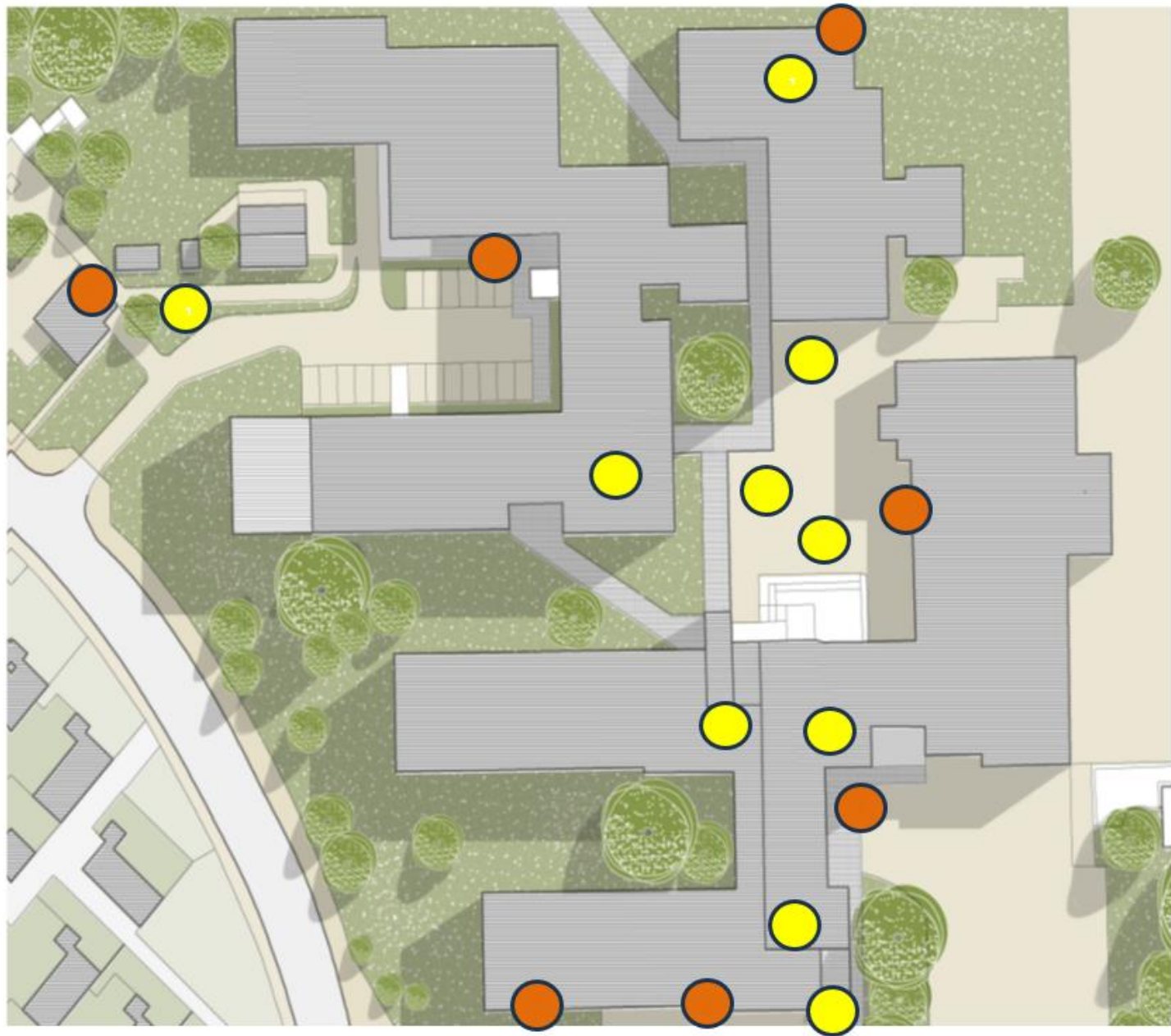
In Yondr's experience, this almost never happens. All students funnel past the unlocking stations at the exits, they want their phones back and don't forget to unlock their pouches. If they do arrive home with a phone in a pouch, they can either come back to school to unlock it or have a phone free evening!



HANDHELD



LOCK BOX



# THANK YOU

We look forward to seeing the positive  
impact of our phone-free school!

Learn more  
[www.overlyondr.com](http://www.overlyondr.com)

## **(FOR PRESENTER ONLY) WHAT 5 THINGS DO WE WANT PARENTS TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PRESENTATION?**

### Time

- A good sense of how much time people spend on their phones.
- We need to be *using* our time, not *spending* our time.

### Behavior

- Knowing where & when phone use might be *inappropriate*. Think: etiquette / respectful behavior.

### Phone-Free Spaces

- A good understanding why phone-free spaces are important.
- A realization that phone-free spaces are important in an increasingly "connected" society.
- Why these spaces are important to educators and artists.

### Policy & Expectations

- Strong understanding of Yondr policy and expectations.

### Main Takeaway: Our Relationship with Technology

- A new sense of their relationship with technology.
- Having the ability to think critically about the role of technology in the Digital Age.
- In general, being able to question what's going on in the world.