



PERSONAL DEVICE POLICY

2025/2026

Stewards Academy

Part of the Passmores Co-operative Learning Community

Company no: 7736246

Rationale

Educational research identifies a clear correlation between a young person's development and their use of electronic devices*.

Excessive screen time and unregulated use of such devices by children and adolescents can lead to potential negative impacts on physical and mental health, like sedentary behaviour, disrupted sleep, cyberbullying, and increased stress and anxiety. In addition, there is strong evidence that uncontrolled use during school hours could lead to distractions, hampering the learning process and academic performance.

After careful review and consultation, our aim is to limit the use of personal electronic devices in school. We aim to balance the benefits of connectivity and safety with the need to reduce the potential adverse effects. The goal is to minimise unnecessary and potentially harmful screen exposure while ensuring children can communicate with their parents or guardians during their commute to and from school.

From April 22nd, 2025 Students will be required to place their Mobile Phone and other devices (e.g. Smart watch and headphones) into a Yondr pouch.

*Electronic Devices includes but is not limited to Mobile Phones, Smart watches, Handheld entertainment systems (eg: games consoles) and Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, iPads

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE Current 'Keeping children safe in education' guidance
- DfE Current 'Searching, screening and confiscation' guidance
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019

Ownership and responsibility

Students are responsible for their own belongings. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing property that is lost, stolen or damaged either at school or travelling to and from school.

Students are responsible for replacing lost or damaged school property, including electronic devices.

Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. It is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition. Lost or damaged pouches will need to be replaced at a cost of £15.

Personal electronic devices

Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to the following items:

- Mobile phones
- Smart devices such as watches
- Handheld entertainment systems, e.g. games consoles, mp3 players
- Portable internet devices, e.g. tablets, iPads
- Ear buds and headphones

Expectations

Between the hours of 08:00 and 15:15, personal electronic devices (Mobile phone, Smart watches etc) will always be switched off and stored in their personal Yondr pouch. Pouches must be kept either in students' lockers or in their bags until 15:15 or until the student has left the premises.

At the start of the day

- 1) Students will open their pouch at a centrally located unlocking station
- 2) Before entering the school students will turn off their phone and place it into their pouch this will then be locked and shown to a duty member of staff
- 3) A second check will be carried out each morning by form tutors

At the end of the day

Students will:

- 1) Open their Pouch at one of the designated unlocking points
- 2) Remove their phone
- 3) Close their Pouch (important to stop the pin bending in the bag)
- 4) Keep in their school bag overnight.

If students bring wireless devices, such as air pods, to school, they are also to be stored in the Yondr pouch.

Late Starters or Early Leavers

Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones using the unlocking point outside main reception at the front of school

Spot checks

Should the situation arise, students are required to comply with any request to check their mobile phone during an investigation, including unlocking the phone to facilitate a check of contents. All spot checks will be conducted in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Violations

Phone seen during School

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside a Yondr pouch, the phone will be confiscated, and a **60 Minute** after school detention will be issued in the first instance.

In a second instance will result in a phone call from a senior leader and a same day **90 Minute** after school detention will be issued

A third instance will result in a suspension and during the reintegration meeting the student will be required to hand in their device for a term to be agreed upon by the Head teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, **their phone will be collected, and a call home made to remind the parent of the policy.** The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it will be considered as Lost. **Refer to the Ownership and Responsibility section of this policy.**

Unlocking Stations

If a student is found in possession of a Yondr unlocking station, or a similar strength magnet used to unlock the pouches, this will be considered a serious offence and could lead to a suspension.

Accidental Damage

Notify the school immediately explaining what happened. If any damage is spotted at a pouch check it will be considered intentional unless the student has raised it previously.

Pouches will be checked to make sure they have not been damaged

Pouch Damage or Lost Pouch

If a student intentionally damages their Pouch, we will collect the phone and call home for a **Parent Pickup**.

A new pouch will need to be purchased at a cost of £15

Examples of intentional damage may include

- Ripped fabric
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap
- Damage to the black ball
- Pouch opens without unlocking station

Failure to hand over a phone or any other electronic device when requested to do so by any member of staff may result in a suspension.

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the LGB April 2025 and will be reviewed yearly.