

The Warriner School

Responsible - Respectful – Ready

A member of The Warriner Multi
Academy Trust

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Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Mobile Phones

We are writing to share exciting news – In January, we will be making our school a phone-free space to enhance student well-being and further improve teaching and learning! We will be using a system called Yondr to achieve this goal. Yondr has been used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, comedy shows, businesses, camps, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. There is a current debate regarding whether mobile phones should be banned in schools. Yondr provides a more sophisticated answer allowing students to have their phone before and after school which helps protect their safety. They can also be unlocked during the day if the teacher wants the technology to be used to enhance learning or if there is an emergency situation at home.

Key reasons for this decision:

1. **Mobile phone addiction can cause mental health issues.** Some studies suggest a possible link between 'mobile phone addiction' and negative psychological effects such as sleep deprivation, anxiety, stress and depression. Yondr provides a much needed break from their mobile phones.
2. **There is increasing concern regarding the role mobile phones play in the increasing amount of online bullying and peer-on-peer abuse.** Before mobile phones and internet connections, bullying was limited to face-to-face physical and verbal abuse. Now, cyberbullying can also follow students home, where they should feel safe. What's more, students can also take photos and videos and target other students and teachers anonymously.
3. **Mobile phones reduce concentration and productivity in lessons.** The temptation to check social media during a lesson can be high and can distract students. One study from the London School of Economics showed that banning mobile phones in schools had a positive effect on test



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scores. They surveyed schools in four English cities and found that student performance in high stakes exams significantly increased.

We have attached a fact sheet produced from Yondr. Please note that as a US company the sources are American based.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in learning institutions. Yondr surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**

We have visited the first school in the country to use Yondr. We spoke to teachers and students and we were both impressed with the benefits that have been evidenced over the last four years. One student commented to another, “We weren’t friends before Yondr because you were always on your phone!”

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly on 01295 720777 or by emailing t.morgan@warriner.oxon.sch.uk If you would like to participate in our upcoming virtual meeting about the adoption of Yondr please email Trish Morgan on the address above and we will send you a link to the TEAMS Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7th December at 6.00pm.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the successful adoption of Yondr at our school.

Thank you,



Mrs S Nicholls
Head of School



Mr R Eadon
Deputy Head of School