

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Yondr**

### **What is Yondr?**

Yondr creates phone-free spaces for organisations, including schools. The Yondr system is a simple solution that allows students to maintain possession of their phone at all times.

### **Why is The Warriner School introducing Yondr?**

Due to the current national context and Government pressure on schools, many schools have chosen to ban phones from site. However, we do not want to do this for safeguarding reasons before and after school so phones can be used in emergencies and for educational reasons. We want to:

- create a calmer, phone-free space for 6.5 hours a day, during term-time
- improve the mental health of all our students in Years 7-11, the year groups where we see the most issues around anti-social behaviours linked to phones
- reduce the role mobile phones play in online bullying and peer on peer abuse
- improve productivity and concentration in lessons

### **How does it work?**

Upon arrival at tutor groups, students will place their phone in their Yondr case and then they will use the locking/unlocking base to secure the phone in the case. Students maintain possession of their phones at all times, throughout the day. At the end of P5, as the students are leaving their last lesson, they will unlock their cases using the locking/unlocking base in the classroom. Buses/taxis will not leave site until all students are on their buses or in their taxis – we will ensure that timings at the start of the day and at the end of the day are more flexible whilst we are all getting used to using Yondr

### **Will students get a late detention if they are late to P1 because of problems with Yondr?**

No – if it is clearly not the student's fault and there had been an issue with locking the case. However, unlocking/locking only takes a few seconds.

### **Do students maintain possession of their phone at all times?**

Yes, locked in the case.

### **Will the case affect the phone in any way?**

No.

### **Can students personalise their cases?**

Yes, in an appropriate manner.

### **Can students still use their phones for medical reasons?**

Yes, as per agreements set in place with appropriate staff. Any student who uses their phone for medical purposes will be allowed to continue with this arrangement.

### **If there is an emergency at home, what do students need to do?**

Admin staff at our General Office (GO) **and** our Reception will support all students in any emergency and will make and take phone calls to ensure that home and students are able to communicate. There will be unlocking devices at GO and Reception and cases can be unlocked in seconds.

**Can teachers decide to use phones to support their teaching and the students' learning?**

Yes, but this will be on an individual basis, where staff will make professional judgements at specific points in their teaching.

**Do Sixth Formers have to use Yondr?**

No but if they chose to, there will be spare cases for them.

**What happens if our spot checks find – for example – calculators in cases, not phones?**

The student's phone would be confiscated (no warnings) and they would need to be collected by the student at the end of the day. If this is a recurrent problem, the phone will be kept in our safe overnight and parents will be invited into school for a meeting with a senior member of staff – these sanctions are the same as we have in place now.

**What happens if students destroy their cases on purpose?**

They will be charged a replacement fee, but we will look at each incident on an individual basis and will financially support if needed.

**What happens if a case is damaged accidentally, through no fault of the owner?**

There will be no charge for replacement.

**What if a parent, guardian or carer wanted to 'check-in' with a student at lunchtime?**

The school's admin team are really happy to take calls or emails enquiring about any child's well-being, or a practical issue like a forgotten lunch or PE kit. The school encourages appropriate communication between families, but we discourage communication that is either unnecessary (can wait until the end of the day) or communication that could upset/unsettle students within a school day and is better discussed face to face at the end of the day.

**Are there any students in Years 7-11 who can be exempt?**

Generally not because we are not changing our school rules – phones are to be switched off at the bottom of a school bag – the only change is they are locked in a case in their school bag. If any student needs them unlocked for a good reason, they will be unlocked. However, there may be a very small number of students with particular medical needs or special educational need who we will allow to be exempt but that will only be in consultation with senior staff and our SENCO. I urge any parents, guardians or carers to contact their child's head of year if they feel their child fits a medical or special educational need criteria.

**Can students use their phone from 3pm onwards, as they are going home?**

Yes, before school, up until they go into their tutor group. As we have said, we are not banning phones.

**Does The Warriner School think students will benefit from having Yondr?**

Absolutely, Yes!

**We hope these FAQs help and have a great holiday**