KLB Phone Pouches FAQs

We are introducing Yondr phone pouches to support KLB's existing expectation that students do not use personal devices during the school day. The pouches provide a simple, consistent way to support a phone-free school day, helping students focus on learning, friendships and wider school life.

We will continue to teach responsible use of technology and online safety, including the importance of family conversations about phone use beyond school.

We are working towards introducing pouches at the start of the week beginning 23 November 2026.

How the system works

The pouches are lightweight, slightly padded and compact, so they fit comfortably into school bags alongside students' usual belongings. You can see a photograph of the pouch on Yondr's official website: www.overyondr.com/student-pouch

Before students enter the school site through one of the two green gates, they will unlock their pouches at one of the unlocking stations situated close to the gates. They will turn off their phones, smartwatches and wireless earbuds, place these in their Yondr pouches and lock them. Staff at the gates will supervise the process.

Pouches remain in school bags throughout the day and are unlocked by students at designated stations when they leave school.

The gate next to the Reception car park will be open at the end of the day so that students walking towards Wotton have quick access to the OK Path and additional unlocking stations.

Students take their pouches home and bring them back every day.

The arrangements apply to years 7–11. Sixth Form students will continue to follow their existing mobile phone expectations.

Frequently asked questions

Arriving at and leaving school

1. How will you ensure students don't miss their bus?

   We know how important it is for students to reach their buses promptly. Students will unlock their own pouches at unlocking stations next to the gates, supervised by staff. We have seen this process in action at other schools and are confident that our set-up will enable a smooth exit. Unlocking the pouch takes a matter of seconds. Additional staff will support the initial rollout, and we will monitor and adjust arrangements where necessary.

2. What if my child arrives late or leaves early?

   Students arriving late will sign in at Reception and secure their devices there. Students leaving for appointments or because they are unwell can unlock their pouches at Reception as part of signing out.

3. What if my child forgets to unlock their pouch when leaving school?

   Students should unlock their pouches at the designated stations as they leave school. If they forget, they will need to wait until they return to school to unlock their pouch.

4. Does my child need to bring their pouch every day?

   Yes. Students who have been allocated a pouch must bring it to school every day, even if they are not bringing their phone on a particular day. Pouches should remain in school bags throughout the day and be taken home each evening.

Phones, smartwatches and other devices

1. Which devices must be secured in a Yondr pouch?

   Mobile phones, smartwatches and wireless earbuds, including AirPods, must be switched off and secured in the pouch when students enter through the green gates. These devices must remain secured throughout the school day unless access has been specifically authorised.

2. Can my child still bring their phone to school?

   Yes. Students can continue to bring their phones to school and retain possession of them throughout the day. The difference is that phones will be secured in Yondr pouches while students are on the school site.

3. Does this apply to Sixth Form students?

   No. Yondr applies to Years 7–11. Sixth Form students will continue to follow the school's existing expectations for appropriate mobile phone use.

4. What if my child does not bring a phone to school?

   Parents will be able to complete a simple online declaration form confirming that their child does not bring a phone to school. Students with a standing declaration will not need to carry a pouch. Students who usually bring a phone should still bring their allocated pouch every day, even when their phone is at home. A note from a parent or carer confirming that their child does not have a phone on a particular day can be handed to a member of staff at the gate.

5. Can students use their phones during lessons for educational activities?

   Our expectation is that students will not need to use personal phones during lessons. School equipment will normally be used where technology is required. There may be exceptional occasions when a member of staff authorises phone use for a specific educational purpose. Students who do not have a phone will not be disadvantaged.

Contacting home and emergencies

1. What if my child needs to contact home urgently?

   Students should go to Reception, where staff can contact home, if appropriate. Parents needing to contact their child urgently should telephone Reception. Please note that our reception team will not be able to make calls for forgotten homework, food ingredients or PE kit. You will appreciate we do not wish to add significantly to the workload of an already busy team. Please encourage your child to arrive at school fully prepared for their school day.

2. What if my child feels unwell during the school day?

   Students should continue to follow the school's existing procedures and seek support from the First Aid team. Where necessary, the school will contact parents or carers. Students do not need access to their personal phones to arrange collection.

3. What happens during an emergency or lockdown?

   Students will follow established school emergency procedures. Phones will remain secured, and the school will communicate directly with parents and carers as appropriate.

Medical needs and exemptions

1. What if my child needs their phone for medical monitoring?

   We recognise that some students need access to their mobile phones to monitor or manage a medical condition. This might include students whose phones receive continuous readings or alerts from a medical device, such as a glucose or ketone monitor.

   Where phone access is medically necessary, students will normally be provided with a special Velcro pouch rather than a standard locking pouch. This allows them to keep their phone securely stored while retaining access when required for their medical needs.

   Students with these arrangements will follow the normal procedures when entering school but will be permitted to access their phones for their agreed medical purpose. They should inform a member of staff before doing so, unless they need to respond immediately to a medical alert, in which case they should inform staff as soon as practicable.

   These arrangements are specifically for students who need access to their phones for medical monitoring or management. Having a medical condition does not automatically mean that a student needs an accessible pouch. Students who feel unwell should continue to seek support from the Medical Team, who will contact parents where necessary.

   Parents who believe their child requires an exemption will be asked to complete an online form, available from next week. Individual arrangements will be agreed according to the student's needs, taking account of the medical information already held by the school. Where necessary, alternative arrangements will be made to ensure essential medical monitoring is not interrupted.

   Any smartwatch or connected device required for medical monitoring will also be considered as part of the individual arrangements.

Trips, fixtures and activities

1. What happens on school trips and sporting fixtures?

   Students will normally keep their devices secured in their Yondr pouches. Staff leading trips and fixtures will have portable unlockers.

2. How will I know if a sporting fixture or school trip is running late?

   We recognise that parents need to know about changes to return times, particularly when arranging collection. Staff accompanying students will be able to unlock pouches if necessary so that students can contact home with permission, including when return times or collection arrangements change.

3. What about residential visits, such as Battlefields?

   Arrangements for residential visits may differ from those used during the normal school day. We recognise that some residential visits already have well-established arrangements. Parents will be informed of the arrangements for residential visits before departure, most likely at the information evening held in school.

4. What about Duke of Edinburgh expeditions?

   We are reviewing the arrangements for Duke of Edinburgh activities to ensure that phone expectations are appropriate for the nature of each expedition, including safety and emergency communication requirements. Specific instructions will be provided to students and parents taking part.

5. What happens if my child attends an after-school club or activity?

   Students attending clubs, sporting activities or other events on the school site will keep their phones secured until they leave. The designated unlocking stations will remain accessible for students leaving after-school activities.

6. What about evening events?

   Years 7–11 students participating in concerts, performances or other school activities will secure their devices on arrival. This does not apply when a child attends an event with their parent or carer, such as a parents' evening.

Looking after pouches and following the rules

1. What if my child forgets their pouch?

   A student who forgets their pouch must hand in their phone and smartwatch on arrival and collect them at the end of the day. Repeated incidents will be followed up with parents.

2. What if my child's pouch is lost or damaged?

   If a pouch is lost or needs replacing, parents will pay through Scopay before Reception issues a replacement. The provisional replacement price is £15, to be confirmed. If a pouch is damaged and can no longer be secured, the student will need to hand in their devices each day until a replacement has been issued.

3. What happens if a student deliberately damages or tampers with their pouch?

   Deliberate damage or tampering will be dealt with under the school's Mobile Phone and Behaviour Policies. Parents will be responsible for the cost of replacing a deliberately damaged pouch.

4. What happens if a student does not follow the arrangements?

The school's updated Mobile Phone and Behaviour Policies will apply. Final expectations and sanctions will be shared with parents and students before we launch the scheme.

Why we're introducing pouches

1. Why introduce pouches when many students already follow the rules?

   Many students already follow our expectations around mobile phone use. Yondr pouches are not a punishment but a way of ensuring greater consistency and reducing the distractions and pressures associated with phones, allowing students to focus on learning, friendships and wider school life.

   We will continue to teach responsible technology use, online safety and digital wellbeing, recognising the important role families play in supporting healthy habits outside school. Helpful guidance is available from Internet Matters, the NSPCC and the UK Safer Internet Centre.