



The Heys School

Heys Road, Prestwich Manchester. M25 1JZ T | 0161 7732052

E: office@theheys.school | W: www.theheys.school

Headteacher | Mrs L Turner

Maximise our potential, to be the best we can be, every day.

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introducing the Yondr Phone-Free Schools Programme

At The Heys School, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, navigating life both online and offline. While technology offers many exciting opportunities, it can also present academic, emotional and social challenges.

To support students' wellbeing, focus and engagement in learning, we are introducing the [Yondr Phone-Free Schools Programme](#) from **Monday 7 September 2026**.

This initiative is not simply about reducing screen time; it is about creating an environment where students can think deeply, engage meaningfully with others, and fully participate in school life.

For over a decade, Yondr has supported schools in more than 40 countries to develop healthier and more engaging school cultures. Schools participating in the programme have reported:

- **86%** improvement in student safety and wellbeing
- **84%** increase in classroom engagement
- **44%** reduction in behavioural referrals

How the Programme Works

Each student will be issued with a Yondr pouch, a secure and lockable case designed to safely store personal devices during the school day. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to school each day and maintaining it in good condition.

On arrival at school

Students will:

- Switch off all smart technology, including mobile phones and smart watches.
- Place their devices into the Yondr pouch.
- Lock the pouch in front of a member of staff.

During the school day

Students will keep the locked pouch securely in their school bag.

Respect | Kindness | Determination



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Reg Office: 18 Beecham Court, Goose Green, Wigan, WN3 6PR



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At the end of the day

Students will unlock their pouch at designated unlocking stations and retrieve their devices before leaving site.

This process is quick, straightforward and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routines.

Staying Connected

The safety and wellbeing of our students remains our highest priority.

Should you need to contact your child during the school day, please telephone the school office on **0161 773 2052**, and we will ensure that messages are passed on promptly.

Likewise, if a student needs to contact home during the school day, arrangements can be made through the school office.

Parent Information Event

We understand that introducing a new system raises questions, and we want to ensure that all families feel fully informed and supported.

We will therefore be holding an online parent information session where we will explain the programme in more detail and answer any questions you may have.

Date: Thursday 3 September 2026

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Event

Event link: [Yondr - Going Phone-Free Parent Information Event](#)

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a focused, positive and distraction-free learning environment for every student.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Turner
Headteacher

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Frequently Asked Questions

Morning and Afternoon Procedures

How quick is the unlocking process?

The unlocking process is very quick and students typically do not need to stop walking. During the initial implementation period, staff will be available with mobile unlocking stations to help prevent queues and support students in becoming familiar with the routine.

What if my child arrives late or needs to leave early?

The school office will have an unlocking device available for students who arrive late or need to leave before the end of the school day.

Will my child's phone be safe?

Students remain in possession of their phones throughout the school day, as devices are stored securely within their Yondr pouch.

Students should keep the pouch safely in their school bag. Whilst the pouch offers some protection, it is not a replacement for a protective phone case or screen protector.

What happens if a student forgets to unlock their pouch at the end of the school day?

In Yondr's experience, this happens very rarely. Students pass designated unlocking stations before leaving school and usually remember to retrieve their phone.

If a student does arrive home with their phone still locked in the pouch, they can either return to school to have it unlocked or wait until the following school day.

What happens if a student forgets their pouch?

The student's phone will be collected and stored securely in the school office until the end of the day.

Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the programme requirements. Repeated failure to bring a pouch may result in a replacement pouch being issued at a cost of **£20**.

We strongly recommend that students keep their pouch in their school bag and that pouches remain locked at all times.

Daily Pouch Use

What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?

We recognise that a small number of students require access to their phone for medical reasons, such as monitoring and managing specific health conditions.

Alternative arrangements will be made for these students. Families already known to the school will be contacted directly regarding these arrangements.

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My child does not currently bring a phone to school. What should I do?

Please email office@theheys.school and a member of staff will provide guidance on the next steps.

What happens if a phone is seen outside a pouch?

If a student is found using or carrying a phone outside their pouch during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent or carer.

Sanctions will be applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, which will be available on the school website from September 2026.

Where staff have reason to believe a student has not secured their phone in a pouch, bag searches may be conducted in accordance with school procedures.

What happens if a pouch is damaged?

Any deliberate attempt to tamper with the Yondr system, including the use or possession of high-strength magnets, will be treated as a serious breach of school expectations.

Consequences may include:

- A £20 replacement charge
- Confiscation of the device until collected by a parent/carers
- Suspension, where appropriate

If a pouch is accidentally damaged, students should report this immediately. Failure to report damage may result in the damage being treated as deliberate.

Random pouch checks will take place throughout the academic year to monitor the condition of pouches.

Emergencies

What happens in an emergency?

In any emergency situation, students must follow instructions from school staff and established safety procedures.

Unauthorised mobile phone use during an emergency may:

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Increase risks to students and staff
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding procedures

All emergency communications will be managed directly by the school.

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