



Mobile Phone Policy & Guidelines

Chew Valley School

September 2026

Chew Valley School is a phone-free environment for students. Phones and wearable tech (smart watches, AirPods/earbuds etc) are not to be used during school.

At Chew Valley School we're committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities – but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Our goal is to promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment whilst encouraging responsible use of technology. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone policy that incorporates the Yondr programme <https://www.veryondr.com>.

We believe that every student deserves the chance to experience a phone-free education and Yondr pouches provide a simple, secure way of supporting this approach across our school. This approach provides a balanced solution, ensuring young people retain possession of their phones while minimising distractions during school hours. The Pouch helps foster social interaction, improve focus on learning, and reduce stress associated with phone use, all while maintaining communication for families during travel to and from school.

Every student will be given 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.

DAILY PROCESS

Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.

School Entrance

As students arrive to school they will:

- 1) Turn their phone off
- 2) Place phone in Yondr Pouch
- 3) Lock Yondr Pouch
- 4) Store it in their bag for the day
- 5) AirPods/Earphones (if owned) must be placed in school bags
- 6) Ensure the pouch is available 'on request' for equipment checks

We will assume that unlocked pouches on the school site are being kept unlocked for the purposes of phone use during the school day; the student will be placed in internal suspension for a full day.

End of the Day

Students will:

- 1) Open their pouch by tapping it against the unlocking station
- 2) Remove their phone
- 3) Close their pouch
- 4) Keep in their school bag overnight

LATE STARTERS OR EARLY LEAVERS

Students arriving late to school should put their phone in their pouch as they are signing in with a member of staff at Student Services.

Students leaving site early should unlock their pouch with a member of staff at Student Services as they sign out.

The Senior Leadership and House Teams will carry out routine and spot checks during the day to make sure that pouches have not been damaged and that your phone is placed within.

POUCH DAMAGE OR LOST POUCH

If a student damages or loses their pouch, we will collect their phone and store at Student Services each day until a replacement pouch has been purchased, at a cost of £20.

Deliberate pouch damage will result in a one-day internal suspension.

Examples of damage:

- 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

Any further pouch damage thereafter will result in external suspension.

MOBILE PHONE SEEN DURING SCHOOL

If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone outside of a Yondr Pouch, these will be confiscated and this will result in an immediate internal suspension for one day.

In the instance of any refusal from students to follow this sanction, it will result in a one day external suspension.

Any further incidents will lead to further external suspensions.

FORGOTTEN POUCH

If a student forgets their pouch, the student must go to Student Services and hand their phone into Student Services.

If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost. Please refer to the lost pouch policy above.

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 result in an external suspension.

ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE

Parents/carers must 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.

EMERGENCIES AND SAFEGUARDING

Communications During the School Day

Parents/carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via the school office on 01275 332272. We will then pass this message onto your child.

If your child needs to speak to you as a result of this contact, they will be able to utilise the school telephone.

Medical Conditions

Students who require access to their mobile devices for specific medical purposes will be provided with a medical pouch.

Emergency Procedures

In an emergency, the priority is for students to follow school safety procedures under staff guidance. Unauthorised phone use during such situations may:

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Put students and staff at increased risk
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding measures

Emergency communications will be managed through the school.

Schools will communicate to parents and carers via My Child at School. If phones require unlocking in emergencies, we will utilise portable unlocking stations as long as it is safe to do.