

23 September 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Creating a Phone Free Environment

You may be aware that in June 2026 new guidance came into force requiring all schools to make adequate arrangements in school to ensure they were able to provide a phone free environment. The “not seen and not heard” approach adopted by many schools is deemed not sufficient to create a fully phone free environment.

We agree that creating a learning environment where every student is able to thrive is a key priority and therefore, we spent the summer term this year considering what viable options were available for our school community. We were very keen not to rush into adopting a new process as we want something that is effective and long term. Therefore, we have decided to adopt the [Yondr Phone-Free Schools Programme](#) from Thursday 15 October 2026.

Our students are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This strategy isn't just about limiting screen time, it's about giving students the space to think deeply, engage meaningfully and thrive in an environment designed for their growth.

For over a decade, Yondr has supported schools in more than 40 countries to build healthier, more engaging school cultures. Their pouch-based programme, combined with hands-on guidance and dedicated support, has led to powerful results:

- 86% reported improved safety and student wellbeing
- 84% saw increased engagement in class
- 44% reported reduced behavioural referrals

How the Programme Works

Each student will be assigned a Yondr pouch - a secure, lockable, numbered case for storing personal devices. Students are responsible for bringing their pouch to and from school each day and keeping it in good condition.

- **Upon arrival:** students power off all smart technology including their mobile phones, smart watches and ear buds, place all devices in the pouch and lock it in front of a teacher.
- **During the day:** students keep the locked pouch in their bag.
- **At dismissal:** students unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices. The pouch is taken home by the student ready for the next school day.

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

Staying Connected

With student safety as our top priority, we will follow our standard safety protocols in the event of an emergency. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact our main office at 01377 253631 or email office@driffieldschool.org.uk. If your child needs to contact you during the school day, they may do so using an office phone.

We know that change takes partnership—and we're here to support a smooth transition for your family. To walk through the programme and answer your questions, we'll be hosting an information session on Tuesday 29 September from 5.30 – 6 pm. This is through video call, and it can be accessed using this link:

<https://meet.google.com/vxr-bhty-dee>

If you do not wish for your child to bring a mobile device to school at all and agree to ensuring that it will be left at home every day, please complete the following form by Monday 28 September:

[Creating a Phone Free School – Fill in form](#)

It is important to be aware that for students wishing to bring their phone to school there is no opt out option from using the pouches. Failure to adhere to the mobile phone procedures will incur a severe consequence as set out in the trust's mobile phone guidance which can be found on our website.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a focused, present and positive school environment for every student.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs D Dalton
Deputy Headteacher