

7th November 2025

Dear Families,

It has been lovely to welcome all our students back this week as we have launched our new phone pouch policy. We'd like to thank students and families for their support in what has been a really positive introduction. It has taken less than 5 minutes at the end of the day to open over 700 pouches, so we are really happy that this new policy is not going to cause disruption to students getting off site.

To recap, Altwood School is now a **phone free site**. Any mobile phone must either be in a pouch or handed into reception on arrival. We are delighted that over 70 families have confirmed that their children will no longer be bringing a phone into school, and these students have been, or will be very shortly, given a credit card style 'pass' to show staff on arrival.

If there is anyone else whose child does not have a phone, or who will not be bringing it into school, please complete the very short form below to confirm this is the case and a card will be issued to them. If things change and they later want to bring in a phone school must be notified and a Yondr pouch purchased.

[Our Phone-Free School – Fill out form](#)

A reminder to families that, if a student is found with a mobile phone outside a pouch, that phone will be confiscated and a parent asked to collect it. The student will be issued with an SLT detention. Any deliberate damage to the pouches or our magnets will be taken very seriously and spot checks will happen regularly to check the pouches are in good condition and contain real phones.

Please can you support us by stressing the importance of following these very simple rules because we are already seeing the benefits of introducing this policy such as:

- Toilet queue times have reduced
- Fewer requests to go to the toilet during lesson time
- More students spending break and lunchtime talking to each other and walking around the site
- Our sixth form taking responsibility for their own 'phone free hours'

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Have a great weekend
Best wishes



Mrs Cath Harden
Headteacher