



STAMFORD
PARK TRUST

DISCONNECT 2 RECONNECT POLICY

RAYNER STEPHENS HIGH SCHOOL

DOCUMENT REFERENCE: 000177/RSHS

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO: All students

OWNER/AUTHOR: Head of School

ESTABLISHMENT LEVEL: School

APPROVING BODY: Local Governing Body

REVIEW CYCLE: 2 yearly

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES: New document

RELATED DOCUMENTS/POLICIES: Behaviour Policy

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK/STATUTORY
GUIDANCE:**

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1. Policy statement

Rayner Stephens High School is a **mobile phone-free school for students during the school day**. Students may bring a mobile phone to school only if it is **secured in a school-issued Yondr pouch**. Students may alternatively choose to **leave phones at home**.

This policy forms part of the **Disconnect 2 Reconnect** whole-school initiative, which aims to improve learning, wellbeing, relationships and safeguarding by removing mobile phone and social media pressures from the school day.

Engagement with this policy is **not optional**.

2. Purpose and aims

The aims of 'Disconnect 2 Reconnect' are to:

- Reduce screen time and remove social media pressure during the school day
- Improve wellbeing and reduce distraction/anxiety linked to online interactions
- Increase lesson engagement, positive behaviour and social interaction
- Support a safer environment by reducing access to inappropriate content, bullying and online risks during the day
- Provide clarity and consistency for students, parents and staff in line with national guidance.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- **All students** on the school site and during the school day (including social times and transitions)
- **All mobile phones** and **smart technology** with similar functionality, including (but not limited to): smart watches, AirPods/Bluetooth earbuds, tablets used for non-approved purposes, and any device capable of messaging, social media, internet access or recording.

It applies:

- On the school site and in school buildings
- At break/lunch times
- While moving around the school day
- During assemblies and tutor time
- On school transport where the school has responsibility (where applicable)
- While in attendance of fixtures/trips where staff set specific arrangements (see Section 10).

4. Key principles

- **Mobile-free means not used or accessed at any point during the school day.**
- **Phones remain in students' possession** but are inaccessible while locked in the pouch.
- **Clear routines** (lock on arrival, unlock on departure) ensure consistent practice across the school.

- The policy is supported by proportionate sanctions and (where needed) searches, consistent with behaviour and safeguarding duties.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Head of School/Principal

- Overall accountability for implementation and review.

SLT (Senior Leadership Team)

- Ensures staff training, operational readiness, and consistent application of sanctions.

Heads of Year / Pastoral teams

- Student induction, monitoring compliance, responding to persistent breaches, liaising with families.

Form Tutors

- Teach routines, reinforce expectations daily, report issues.

All staff

- Uphold a consistent mobile-free culture; report breaches promptly.

Students

- Comply fully with the policy; bring and maintain their pouch; follow lock/unlock routines.

Parents/Carers

- Support expectations and respond promptly if a device is confiscated.

6. Operating procedure

6.1 Issue of pouches

- The school provides each student with a **personal Yondr pouch** (school property, loaned to the student).
- Pouches are issued on/around the implementation date (6th January 2026) and are expected to be used daily.

6.2 Arrival / locking

- On arrival at school, students must:
 1. Switch their phone off (or silent/airplane mode as directed),
 2. Place it in the Yondr pouch,
 3. Lock the pouch as instructed (under staff supervision where required).

6.3 During the school day

- The pouch remains locked.
- Students keep the locked pouch with them (in a bag/on person).
- Pouches must not be tampered with, forced open, or damaged.

6.4 End of day / unlocking

- Students unlock pouches **only at designated unlocking points** as they leave the building/site, then re-secure the pouch ready for the next day.
- Unlocking is designed to be quick and orderly, and additional unlocking points may be used if needed.

7. Students without phones

Where a student does not bring a phone to school:

- Parents may be asked to complete a **no-phone declaration**;
- The student may be issued a **no-phone pass**;
- If a student later brings a phone, they must inform their Form Tutor/Head of Year so a pouch can be issued.

8. Exceptions and reasonable adjustments

8.1 Medical exceptions

A medical exception may apply where a student requires phone access for a clinically evidenced reason (e.g., specific monitoring apps). The school will agree arrangements on a case-by-case basis and may issue a **medical pouch** or alternative control that allows access for medical purposes only.

8.2 SEND and other adjustments

Where a device is part of an agreed plan for additional needs, arrangements will be agreed through pastoral/SEND processes and recorded appropriately.

9. Forgotten, lost or damaged pouches

Forgotten pouch

- If a student arrives without their pouch, they must report to Student Reception
- Their phone will be secured according to school procedure (e.g., handed in for safe storage) and returned at the end of the day.

Lost pouch

- A replacement pouch will be required. Where loss/damage is avoidable, the school may charge a replacement fee in line with published costs for purposeful damage; £18

Damaged pouch

- Any pouch that is damaged or compromised must be replaced at parent/carer expense where appropriate.

10. Late arrival, fixtures, trips and extraordinary circumstances

Late arrivals

- Students who arrive late must report to reception/attendance as usual and will be required to secure and lock the phone before entering the school day.

Fixtures and educational visits

- Students keep phones locked in pouches for the duration unless a member of staff authorises unlocking for a specific reason (e.g., coordinating collection if timings change).
- Staff will carry with them a Yondr unlocking mobile unit that will be used at the end of the fixture/trip.

Emergency situations

- In a genuine emergency, staff will direct students and manage communications. Parents should contact the school office.

11. Communication with families during the day

- Parents/carers who need to reach a student during the school day must contact the **main office**, who will relay messages.
- If students need to contact home, this will be arranged through school systems.

12. Searches and compliance checking

To ensure fairness, consistency and safety, the school may use proportionate checking measures as part of implementation and ongoing compliance. This may include:

- Bag searches and/or the use of a magnetic detection wand where appropriate.
- Targeted or random checks where there is reasonable cause or as part of consistent routines.

All searching is conducted in line with legal guidance and school procedures, and with due regard to dignity, safeguarding and student welfare.

13. Breaches and sanctions

A breach includes (but is not limited to):

- Being in possession of a phone/device **not secured** in a pouch during the day
- Using a phone/device at any time during the school day
- Bringing a second phone/device to bypass the system
- Using an open/damaged pouch or possessing tools/devices intended to open pouches
- Deliberately damaging a pouch.

Minimum sanction:

- Device confiscated and stored securely
- Parents informed; collection by a named adult required
- Collection times set by the school:
 - Mon/Tue/Wed 3:45–4:30
 - Thu/Fri 1:45–2:30
- If not collected, the device is returned to the student after **48 hours**
- A 1-hour SLT detention will also be issued

Repeat breaches

- escalated sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

The DfE guidance supports schools using sanctions (including confiscation and detentions) when pupils breach mobile phone policies, provided they are clear and applied consistently.

14. Safeguarding, wellbeing and education

Disconnect 2 Reconnect sits alongside wider safeguarding and wellbeing work, including:

- Online safety education and reporting routes
- Clear systems for students to seek help from staff
- Parental resources on screen time, addiction risks, and staying safe online at home.

15. Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will monitor:

- Compliance rates and operational issues (e.g., forgotten pouches)
- Behaviour incidents linked to devices
- Student wellbeing feedback and staff feedback
- Learning behaviours and engagement indicators

The policy will be reviewed every 2 years and updated in response to emerging guidance, school evidence and stakeholder feedback.