

Mobile Phone Policy 11 March 2026

Introduction and aims

We recognise that mobile phones and similar devices, including smartphones, have become an important part of everyday life for our students and we are also aware of the significant challenges that owning a smartphone can bring.

Our policy aims to:

- ☛ Promote safe and responsible phone use
- ☛ Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for students,
- ☛ Support our safeguarding and child protection policy and our behaviour policy

This policy aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones at HOBY UK events, such as:

- ☛ Risks to child protection
- ☛ Data protection issues
- ☛ Potential for lesson disruption
- ☛ Risk of theft, loss, or damage

Note: throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar devices, including smart watches and tablets.

1. Roles and responsibilities

- 1.1. All volunteers are responsible for consistently enforcing this policy.
- 1.2. The trustees are responsible for monitoring the policy every year, reviewing it, and holding volunteers and students accountable for its implementation.
- 1.3. The CEO will address any questions or concerns from parents/carers/ volunteers quickly, and clearly communicate the reasons for prohibiting the use of mobile phones.

2. Use of mobile phones by volunteers

- 2.1. Volunteers should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of students during periods of prohibited use unless for the purposes of communicating with members of HOBY UK staff in relation to the programme. Volunteers are expected to be role models regarding mobile use throughout all HOBY UK events

3. Use of mobile phones by pupils

- 3.1. During our seminar students should not use their mobile phones at any time other than at agreed times. Parents/carers and students will be asked to sign that they have read and understood this policy.
- 3.2. All students have been issued with a "Yondr pouch."
- 3.3. They are a tamper proof pouch that can be used to store a mobile phone throughout the day. These are locked pouches that can then be unlocked during

free time at one of the Yondr stations. Locations of the Yondr stations will be given to students each morning.

3.4. Additional information about Yondr pouches can be found here:

<https://www.veryondr.com/phone-locking-pouch>

4. Exceptions for special circumstances

4.1. HOBY UK may permit students to use a mobile phone, due to exceptional circumstances linked to their medical needs (e.g Diabetic students testing bloods), on a case by case basis for non health or mental health related purposes and other urgent purposes. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To request such permission, parents/carers should contact our CEO, rpanting@hoby.org.uk, who will ensure our staff are aware of this exception

4.2. Any students who are given permission must then adhere to the code of conduct for acceptable use agreement for mobile phone use (see appendix).

5. Sanctions

5.1. If a student breaches our mobile phone policy they will be asked to place their mobile phone in a Yondr pouch immediately. Failure to do so will result in the implementation of the HOBY UK Behaviour Policy.

5.2. Any sanction given will be reasonable and proportionate. We will consider whether:

5.2.1 There are any relevant special circumstances (for example, age, religious requirements, special educational needs, disability)

5.2.2 The student's behaviour may indicate they may be suffering, or at risk of, harm. If this is suspected, staff will follow the appropriate procedure set out in Part 1 of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

5.3. Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. We will take such conduct extremely seriously and will involve whichever agency is appropriate.

- Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:
- ☛ Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- ☛ Upskirting
- ☛ Threats of violence or assault
- ☛ Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

8. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, volunteers and visitors

Parents/carers, visitors and volunteers must adhere to this policy

8.1. Please follow the below guidelines when attending a HOBY UK event

8.1.1. Refrain from taking pictures or recordings of students, unless it's at a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child

8.1.2. Refrain from using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent

8.1.3. Refrain from using phones in lessons, or when working with students

HOBY UK is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on students' seminar experience and welfare during HOBY UK Events. When reviewing the policy, we will take into account:

- ☞ Feedback from parents/carers and students
- ☞ Feedback from volunteers
- ☞ Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents

If there are any concerns regarding this policy, these should be brought to the attention of the CEO in a timely manner, at rpanting@hoby.org.uk

This policy was implemented on 11th March 2026

It will be reviewed annually

Signed: 

John Sharples
Acting Chair of Trustees

Name of Student

School Attended

I acknowledge I have read and understood this policy, and the sanctions included therein

Signed Parent/Carer

Print Name

Signed Student

Print Name

. Appendix: Code of conduct/acceptable use agreement for students allowed to bring their phones to the seminar due to exceptional circumstances

Code of conduct/acceptable user agreement

You must obey the following rules if you have special permission to bring your mobile phone to HOBY UK events:

You may not use your mobile phone during sessions unless your leader specifically allows you to.

Phones must be switched off (not just put on 'silent').

You may not use your mobile phone in the toilets. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other pupils.

You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of volunteers or other students.

Do not share your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.

Don't share your phone's password(s) or access code(s) with anyone else.

Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating students or staff via:

Email

Text/messaging app

Social media

Don't use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal. For instance, by 'sexting'.

Don't use your phone to view or share harmful content.

You must comply with a request by a volunteer to switch off the phone during sessions. Refusal to comply is a breach of the behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.