



St. Aidan's Community School

Mobile Phone Policy

To ensure a healthy, engaging and safe environment for all members of our school community, and to bring the school in line with Department of Education and Youth Guidelines, St. Aidan's Community School is now a mobile phone-free school for students during the school day.

St. Aidan's Community School recognises that mobile phones are an integral part of young peoples' culture and way of life and can have considerable benefits and value when used appropriately. However, we are also cognisant that phones can be a significant distraction, hinder concentration, communication and socialisation, and contribute to high levels of anxiety and stress among young people and adults alike.

This policy aims to protect the well-being of all within St. Aidan's Community School, and it should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

Mobile Phone Process:

- St. Aidan's Community School is a **mobile phone-free zone** for students during the school day, from entering the school building, including breaks and lunchtimes on all school days.
- Students who use digital payments outside of school for lunch during the school day must ensure they have a physical card, as their phones will not be accessible during lunchtime.
- Every student will receive a Yondr Pouch, which they will keep for the school year. This Yondr Pouch will be marked with a unique identifier code, and a record of each student's code will be maintained.
- Please note students can only bring **one mobile phone to school.**
- Should a student choose to bring a phone to school, it must be switched off and placed in their Yondr Pouch as the student enters the school building and be kept there for the day. Their Yondr Pouch is to be kept with them for the school day.
- Regular spot checks of students' use of the pouches will occur. Any student found in breach of the mobile phone policy will have their phone confiscated, and procedures as outlined below will follow.
- At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouches using the unlocking stations provided around the school.
- If a student needs to leave school early, following the correct procedures, they will release their phone from its Yondr pouch at the Main Office as they sign out.

- Permission to sign out and leave the school building must be agreed upon by the relevant Year Head or Deputy Principal[s] or Principal **and** the parent/guardian via phone call from the school.
- Parents/guardians of students with diabetes or any other diagnosed medical condition requiring access to their phones must contact the Deputy Principal(s)/Principal about this matter and will be issued with a specific medical pouch.

Breach of the Mobile Phone Policy:

- Any student found with a mobile phone not in their Yondr pouch or using it unauthorised during school hours **will have the phone confiscated.**
- Students who refuse to hand up their phone on request from any staff member may face sanctions up to and including suspension(s). A meeting must occur with either the Year head, Deputy Principal[s]/Principal and the parent/guardian of the student involved prior to the student returning to school.
- Confiscated phones will be placed in the relevant phone box in the Deputy Principal/Principal's Office, and parents/guardians will be contacted.
- Confiscated phones will only be returned to parents/guardians after the end of the school day.
- Phones will only be available for collection by parents up to one hour after the final period of the school day.
- If the confiscated phone cannot be collected as outlined above, the parent/guardian must make arrangements with the Deputy Principal/Principal for a time to collect the phone the following day.
- Phones **will not** be returned to students.
- Repeated breaches of this policy may lead to sanctions up to and including suspension(s).
- Students in breach of the policy by bringing multiple phones into school may face sanctions up to and including suspension(s).
- Students who say they have not brought a phone to school and are subsequently found to have one may face sanctions up to and including suspension(s).

Forgotten / Damaged Pouches:

- The Yondr Pouch is the property of St. Aidan's Community School.
- If the Yondr Pouch is lost or damaged and rendered unusable, the student will be responsible for funding a replacement for €20.
- If students forget their Yondr Pouch, they must leave their phone in the phone box in either Deputy Principal's /Principal's office at the start of the school day.
- Any student who purposely interferes with or damages their Yondr pouch or the Yondr pouch of any other student may face sanctions up to and including suspension(s).
- Students must return the Yondr Pouch they were assigned at the end of the school year.
- Students failing to return their pouch at the end of the school year will be required to fund a replacement.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of St. Aidan's Community School on 13th Jan 2026