



## STUDENT PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

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**Approved by:**

Signed: Michael Maher  
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: May Kelly  
(Principal)

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Version	Date Approved	Author	Update Information
1.0	25/11/2025	COLF	New policy developed due to the implementation of the Yondr pouches in the school.



## INTRODUCTION

The primary aims for introducing such a system at Clifden Community School is to

- Promote your child's wellbeing
- Reduce phone use below 7 hours a day (the teenage average).
- Improve concentration in lessons by reducing distractions from phones.
- Help create a better environment in base rooms and toilets by acting on the feedback from the Student Anti-Bullying Survey.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day.

**Phones are not to be used during school.** Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. It is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

## DAILY PROCESS

### Beginning of the Day

Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day.

#### **School Entrance Model:**

As students arrive to school they will:

- 1) Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base if required before 8:55am.

#### **During 9am Class Students Must:**

- 1) Turn their phone off. Phones that remain powered on will lead to a breach of the rules.
- 2) Place their phone inside the Pouch and secure it in front of their teacher as the roll is called.
- 3) Place the pouch into their bag.

### End of the Day

Students will:

- 1) Open their Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base on their exit from the school.
- 2) Remove their phone.
- 3) Close their Pouch.
- 4) Keep in their school bag overnight.

### Late Starters or Early Leavers

Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones **at the main office.**



## VIOLATIONS

**Pouches will be checked to make sure they have not been damaged or lost.**

### Pouch Damage

If a student damages their Pouch:

- The phone will be taken on the first instance and a parent/carer will have to collect it.
- A suspension on the second or subsequent instances will be issued.
- A €20 replacement fee will be issued for a new Pouch.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped fabric
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap
- Damage to the black ball
- Pouch opens without unlocking station

### Pouch Lost

If a student loses their Pouch, there will be a €20 fee for a replacement Pouch.

### Phone seen during School

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside a Yondr pouch:

- The phone will be taken on the first instance and a parent/carer will have to collect it. A detention will be issued.
- A suspension on the second or subsequent instances will be issued.

### Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, **they must leave their phone into the office for the day.**

The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. The office will send a message home to remind the parent of the policy.

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it will be considered lost.

**Refer to the Lost Pouch policy above.**

### Unlocking Stations

If a student is found in possession of a Yondr unlocking station, or any device or magnet capable of unlocking the pouches, this will be viewed as a serious breach of trust. The student will be asked to reflect on the impact of this action, and a suspension may be applied as part of the restorative process.



# Clifden Community School

Lux, Pax, Felicitas

## Accidental Damage

Notify the school immediately explaining what happened. If any damage is spotted at a pouch check it will be considered intentional unless the student has raised it previously.