



St. Raphaela's Secondary School STUDENT PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

The aim of this policy is to create a learning environment where the health and wellbeing of all of our students is prioritised.

While we appreciate that phones are a valuable resource it is important to set in place good habits for responsible phone use at an early age. We want to make sure that students have every opportunity to engage and be social with their peers without the distraction of technology.

To this end, we have introduced an initiative which allows students to have their phones on the way to and from school, but which limits their use during the school day.

Every student is assigned a personal '**Yondr**' Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Yondr Pouch with them to school and to ensure their name is on the pouch.

Students **must switch their phone off** and place it their **Yondr pouch** before entering the building. While there will be checks in place at the school door, the onus will be on the student to take responsibility to ensure that this is done.

The pouch will remain in the possession of the student at all times. Students must ensure that their pouch is clearly identifiable, by ensuring their name is on it.

The pouch will be sealed magnetically, and students will be able to release the seal on exiting the building at the end of the day.

On limited occasions the teacher may choose to ask students to use mobile phones for teaching and learning. In this situation, the teacher will un-pouch the phones in class and ensure they are re-pouched once the learning activity is over.

Non-compliance with this policy will be considered a **serious breach of school rules**. If a student does not have their phones pouched when checked, or if their phone is found to be in the pouch but switched on, the phone may be confiscated and kept in the office for safe keeping. The student will be receive a sanction such as **an after school detention** or a **Saturday detention**. Repeat offenders may face more serious sanctions.

If a student **deliberately circumvents the terms of this policy** and is found using a phone during the course of the school day, or has a second phone in their possession, or otherwise breaches the terms of this policy, **a sanction up to and including suspension may be incurred.**

A sanction **up to and including suspension**, may also be given for intentional damage to Yondr pouches. Some examples of this are:

- Deep scratches on the globe and on the green ring around it
- Intentional pen marks on the inside of the Pouch
- Bent pins
- Pin and button not fully recessing, due to pin damage.
- Damage caused by attempting to open the pouch or to gain access to the phone.

We would like to reassure you that, as has always been the case, communications between home and students will be facilitated by the school office whenever required.

Should a student lose their pouch, a replacement pouch will cost €20. It is also the responsibility of the student to ensure that their name is on the pouch and that it is kept in good working condition.

If a student decides not to bring a phone to school, parents must contact the office to add the student's name to a list of such students.

If a student forgets their pouch, **they must leave their phone in the office as they come into the school, with their name attached. A phone call home will be logged, to remind the Parent of the policy.** The student is responsible for collecting their phone at the end of the day.

A sanction may also be given in the case where a student consistently forgets their Pouch.