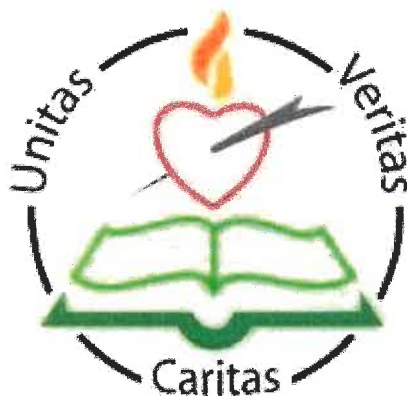


**St. Augustine's College, Abbeyside, Dungarvan.**



## School Yondr Pouch Policy

*Mission Statement St. Augustine's College is a caring community committed to offering all of its students and staff, a happy and safe environment in which they can work, learn and play. We endeavour to facilitate the academic, personal, moral, spiritual and social development of each member of this school community. Our aim is to provide a balanced and well-rounded education for all our students.*

### **Aim**

St. Augustine's College recognises that mobile phones are now an integral part of young people's culture and way of life and can have considerable value when used appropriately. However, we also recognise that phones are a distraction, interrupt communication and socialisation, and add to anxiety and stress levels among students. **The aim of this policy is to protect the well-being of all within St. Augustine's College.**

**Therefore, the following procedures have been put in place to protect all within the school.**

- St. Augustine's College is a mobile /smartphone-free zone during the school day. Once a student arrives on school grounds or in the school building in the morning, they are not permitted to use their phones. This includes the period before the phone is put into the pouch at 9 am and after the phone is removed from the pouch during the last class of the day. If a student is caught using their phone during this time, they will be corrected by the teacher. However, if there are repeated instances of this, the student will be issued a sanction.
- During period 1, students will be asked to put their phone on silent and place it in the Yondr pouch, and it will remain there until 3.55 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and until 1.15 pm on Fridays.
- **PLACEMENT OF PHONE IN POUCH:** Students should arrive at school each morning with the pouch locked. **IN THE FIRST CLASS**, they will unlock their pouch and place their phone on silent, and then place the phone in the pouch in front of the teacher. If a student arrives late to class or in a later class, **it is their responsibility** to have their phone in their pouch. Students are to pouch their phone in front of the Deputy Principal when signing in.
- Supervised study - Students attending supervised study from 4 pm until 6 pm Monday to Thursday and 1.15 pm until 3.15 pm Friday are to pouch their phones for the duration of study. Only a teacher can give permission to unlock the Yondr pouch at the end of study.
- If phones are needed during class time, only a class teacher may release the phone from the Yondr pouches, and at the end of the class, the phone is to be placed back into the pouch and locked under teacher supervision.
- If any student needs to leave school early (with permission from the parents) the phone can be unlocked from the pouch by one of the Deputy Principals.
- Students must bring their pouch to school with them every day.
- If a student needs access to their phone for any medical reason, then a teacher can release the phone for the amount of time needed. The phone/smartphone is to be placed back into the pouch once finished with it.

### **Violations of School Policy:**

- If a student is using or is caught using their phone during the school day, the student will be issued a suspension for the following day, and a replacement pouch will be given to them to store their phone. If there are no replacement pouches available, then the phone will be stored in the relevant Deputy Principal's office until the end of the day. The sanction for not having the phone/smartphone in the pouch during the school day is suspension.
- The sanction for having a second phone will automatically result in a student being suspended.
- Tampering with the pouch in ANY way is considered a violation of the Yondr school policy and will result in a sanction.
- Students who inform teachers in the first class that they do not have a phone will have their name put on a list, and the list will be forwarded to the relevant Yondr Leader, who will contact home to ensure that they don't have a phone with them.

### **Damaged or Lost Pouch Policy:**

Any loss or damage to the Pouch rendering it unusable will result in the student purchasing a new pouch at a cost of €30.00 **Forgotten Pouch**

- If a student forgets their Yondr pouch, they should see their relevant Deputy Principal or Yondr Leader before the first class at 9 am. The Deputy Principal / Yondr Leader will have a small number of spare pouches for use for the duration of the day. These pouches should be returned to the relevant Deputy Principal or Yondr Leader at the end of the school day. Failure to do so will result in a €30 fine. In the event that all of the surplus pouches are in use, the student must surrender their phone to the care of the Deputy Principal for the duration of the school day.
- If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost. Please refer to the Lost Pouch Policy above.

***The school will not accept any responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/smart devices or any other electronic equipment.***

Ratified by the BOM on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023.

Updated in November 2024, reviewed in September 2025.

To be reviewed in 2026..

Signed:



(Chairperson of the BOM)

Date:

17/9/26.

Signed:



(Principal)

Date:

17/9/26.

Reviewed 2026

To Be reviewed 2028