



# MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

## RATIONALE

Following consultation with our school community in 2020/2021, Robert Townson High School implemented a system called Yondr. This decision followed significant feedback from parents and staff in relation to mobile phone usage during the school day. Yondr has been used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, comedy shows, businesses, camps, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

In 2023, the Department of Education undertook a [review into the non-educational use of mobile devices in NSW schools](#) as well as a literature review on the [impact of mobile digital devices in schools](#). In April, 2023, the NSW Government announced a ban on the use of mobile phones at school by students.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- adhere to the Department of Education policy on the use of mobile phones in schools.
- promote a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use or distractions.
- provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunch.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these procedures, the following definitions apply:

mobile phones and other personal electronic devices	includes smart watches and all other electronic devices including iPods and associated listening devices such as, but not limited to, headphones, ear pods and ear buds.

## PROCEDURES

Mobile phones (and ear buds/pods/headphones) are NOT permitted to be used by students. Students must store their mobile phone in a Yondr pouch when entering the school. There are 3 simple steps students need to follow if bringing a mobile phone to school.



### Arriving at school

- Lock phone and earpods/buds in pouch.

1



### During the day

- Keep your pouch in your school bag.

2



### Leaving school

- Open your pouch using the devices around the school.

3



## MOBILE PHONE EXEMPTIONS

Students who require their mobile phone for medical reasons such as monitoring blood sugar (diabetics) will submit an exemption form to their year group Deputy Principal who will issue an exemption pass. These students will only be permitted to use their mobile phones where necessary for their medical needs.

**Exemptions will not be approved for students to use mobile phones to pay for items at the office or canteen. This includes students who have an exemption on medical grounds.**

## CONSEQUENCES

If a student is found to have their mobile phone out (that is, not in a Yondr pouch) anytime during the school day:

<b>On All Occasions</b>	<p>The mobile phone will be immediately confiscated by the member of staff. Failure to comply with this will result in further action as outlined below..</p> <p>If confiscated in class, the student will take their phone to the office with a note from their teacher. The phone will be received by Front Office staff who will record the student's name and provide the student with a numbered card for them to show to collect phone or for parent/carer to collect phone.</p> <p>Students who refuse to hand in their mobile phone will be referred to the appropriate Head Teacher and/or Deputy Principal. This will require additional consequences for continued disobedience and failure to follow instructions.</p>
<b>On First Occasion</b>	<p>The student will receive a warning and be able to pick up their phone from the office at the end of the day. Their parent/carer will be notified via text message that the phone has been confiscated.</p>
<b>On Second Occasion</b>	<p>The student's parent/carer will need to collect the phone from the school. The student will be issued with a Formal Caution [of suspension].</p>
<b>On Third Occasion</b>	<p>The parent/carer will need to attend the school to collect the phone and their child. The student will be suspended from school and will not be able to return until a suspension resolution has taken place.</p>

Phones may also be confiscated where it is necessary to examine the device as there are reasonable grounds to suspect inappropriate material may be on the device. This process will be managed by the Senior Executive.

## CARING FOR THE YONDR POUCH

Yondr pouches can be washed in cold water for a short cycle and air dried. Pouches can also be cleaned with disinfectant cleaner. Pouches are not dry cleanable or dryer safe.

## DAMAGED OR LOST YONDR POUCHES

The pouch is the property of Robert Townson High School, as it has been provided free of charge to students. If a student damages or tampers with their pouch, the student will be held responsible:

<b>On All Occasions</b>	<p>The student's phone will be confiscated by the School. Failure to abide by this instruction may result in suspension.</p>
<b>On First Occasion</b>	<p>The student will be allowed to take the phone home at the end of the school day. A replacement pouch fee of \$15 will be invoiced to the parent/caregiver. Once the invoice has been paid, a replacement pouch will be issued. The student will not be permitted to bring their phone to school until they have the replacement pouch.</p>



**On Second Occasion**

On the second occasion, the student will not be allowed to collect their phone until a meeting occurs with a Deputy Principal and the student and parent/caregiver.

Damage in this context consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

APPENDIX 2 – FLOW CHART

APPENDIX 2 – RESEARCH

There is extensive evidence emerging on the impact of the use of mobile phones by students. Listed below is some of the research, including research undertaken by or on behalf of the NSW Department of Education.