



## ST. CONLETH'S COLLEGE

### **Introduction:**

St. Conleth's College recognises that mobile phones play an integral part in the lives of almost all of our Senior School students. School Management also recognises that mobile phones can have great utility when used appropriately. Our school believes that learning and social behaviour improve considerably when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Mobile phone usage by students in the school setting can be an obstacle to effective engagement in learning, can hinder communication and socialisation and can add to anxiety and stress levels amongst our students. St. Conleth's College became a phone-free space for senior students in September 2024.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Social Media Policy

### **Aim**

The aim of this policy is to protect the well-being of all in the School community.

To achieve this aim, our school has become a phone-free space to improve teaching, learning, communication and sociability using a system called Yondr.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch at the beginning of Form Class. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

### **Daily Procedure in St. Conleth's College**

At Form Class, students will be asked by their Form Teacher to:

1. Turn off or silence their phone.
2. Place their phone inside their Pouch and secure it.
3. Store their pouch in their bag or locker for the day.
4. At the end of the day, students will open their pouch and remove their phone using the release mechanisms located at the school exits.

\*Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones at reception.

\*\*Certain pupils, on the recommendation of an educational psychology, behavioural or medical professional may use a velcro-secured pouch for easier or immediate phone access.



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### **Violations**

Any incidents arising from use of a mobile phone that is brought to the attention of school management will be dealt with in conjunction with the school policies outlined in the Introduction.

- If a student uses, or is caught on their phone during the day, their phone will be confiscated and given to the Deputy Principal.
- The phone can be collected at the end of the school day by the pupil.
- Repeated breaking of this rule will be seen as a serious breach of school policy and may lead to further, and more serious sanctions.

### **Damaged or Lost Pouch**

Any loss or damage of the Pouch, which renders it unusable, will result in the student purchasing a new one at a cost of €15.

### **Forgotten Pouch**

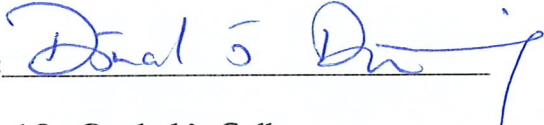
- If a student forgets their Pouch, they need to see the Deputy Principal whose care the phone will be left in for the day.
- If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered Lost. Refer to the Lost Pouch information above.

**NOTE: THIS POLICY DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO ONGOING REVIEW**

This policy was ratified and adopted by Unitary Manager Tony Kilcommons on 28/04/2024

Signed: 

CEO St. Conleth's College

Signed: 

Principal St. Conleth's College