

COOLA POST PRIMARY SCHOOL



Mobile Phone & Personal Smart Device Policy 2023/2024

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071-9165365

1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this policy is to, firstly, protect the welfare, well-being and safety of all within our school community and, secondly, to provide an environment that is conducive to excellent teaching and learning. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and legislation.

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Acceptable Internet Use Policy
- Education Act, 1998
- Education (Welfare) Act, 2000

Coola Post Primary School recognises that mobile phones and personal smart devices are now an integral part of young people's lives and that they can have considerable value when used appropriately. However, in a school setting, it has been our experience that mobile phones and personal smart devices can prevent effective teaching and learning from taking place and inhibit the social development of students. Additionally, instances of inappropriate photographing/videeing of members of the school community and inappropriate communications via social media apps can heighten anxiety and stress levels amongst our students and in some severe cases this can lead to incidents of bullying.

As an ETB school, the [ETBI Patrons' Framework on Ethos](#) underpins all policies and practices in Coola Post Primary School. It informs the values promoted in our school, how the formal and hidden curricula are delivered, and the nature of the relationships within our school. As such, Coola Post Primary School is committed to and underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellent in Education
- Care
- Respect
- Equality
- Community



In particular, this policy is informed by the core values of **excellence in education**, **care** and **respect**, where the welfare, wellbeing and safety of the entire school community must be respected and cared for in order to create an environment that is supportive of excellent teaching and learning.

2 POLICY

1. For the 2023/2024 academic year, Coola Post Primary School will be a mobile phone/personal smart device free zone during the school day. This includes smart phones/watches, ear pods and personal tablets etc.
2. On entering the school campus, students will be required to turn their phone off and place it in their Yondr pouch, where it will remain until the end of the school day. Inspections will be carried out by year heads during morning assembly and at various times throughout the day by senior management. Yondr pouches will only be unlocked using the Yondr unlocking device at the end of the school day. Unlocking devices will be available to all students at exit points and other strategic locations on our school campus.
3. All communication during the school day between parents/guardians and the school must take place through our school office via the VShare app or the office phone (071- 9165365)
4. Students who wish to sign out of school early, will do so in the usual fashion (via the VShare app) and **must** be collected by parents/guardians **at the school reception desk**. Office staff will release their phone from the Yondr pouch when students are signing out.
5. For students requiring regular access to their mobile phone for medical reasons e.g. monitoring blood sugar, an adapted Yondr pouch is available upon receipt of a consultant's letter detailing the reason for the required access. School staff will be notified of any student possessing an adapted Yondr pouch.
6. Under the guidance of senior management, the Yondr pouch may be opened by a teacher using a portable unlocking device for supervised phone use during class activities. The phone may only be used for the purpose instructed by the teacher and any alternative use would be deemed a breach of this policy. Phones **must** be secured in the Yondr pouch upon completion of the educational activity.
7. For school excursions and trips, students should have their phone secured in the

Yondr pouch for the bus journey. Upon arrival at the destination, the accompanying teacher may unlock the Yondr pouch using the portable unlocking device, to allow students to access their phone for a period of time. Phones **must** be secured in the Yondr pouch upon return to the bus.

8. As per the state/school examinations rules, no mobile phones/personal smart devices are allowed in an examination centre.
9. It is the student's responsibility to keep their Yondr pouch containing their phone in a safe and secure location (e.g. in their school locker during the school day). Coola Post Primary School accept no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones and personal smart devices such as smart watches and ear pods.
10. If a Student ignores this policy and has their phone out of the Yondr Pouch, without permission, during the school day, the mobile phone will be confiscated and stored until such time as a parent/guardian comes to collect the phone at the school office. Mobile phones may be collected before 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and before 2pm on Friday.
11. This breach of behaviour will be considered a serious breach of school rules and repeated offences may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school.
12. Should a student bring a second mobile phone to school in addition to the phone placed in their Yondr pouch (or in place of a confiscated mobile phone) both phones will be confiscated. Such behaviour will be considered a serious breach of school rules and will result in immediate suspension from school.
13. If a mobile phone has been confiscated due to a breach of the Yondr policy, parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible.
14. The student will be afforded the opportunity to phone their parent/guardian prior to leaving school.
15. If a student forgets their Yondr pouch, a spare pouch will be available from the front office and must be returned at the end of the school day. Repeated instances will require the purchase of a new pouch.

16. The pouch remains the property of the Yondr Company. Any loss of or damage to the Yondr pouch will incur a charge to the parent/guardian of €20 to provide for a replacement pouch.
17. All Yondr pouches will be inspected periodically to ensure that they are still functional and being kept in good order.
18. Charging of any device in the Yondr pouch is strictly prohibited.