



Mullumbimby High School

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Mobile Phones and Yondr Program

30th October 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

We are writing to share exciting news - we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching, learning and wellbeing. We will be using a system called Yondr to achieve this goal. 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 phone-free spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

Current research and evidence indicates that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates in the classroom and during break times.

Our current school policy of having mobile phones "off and away in your bag" has been in place for several years now and with the Yondr Pouch program, we aim to improve our procedures even further. To support students with following teacher instructions and school policy, **the Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores their mobile phone.**

Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school each day. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. This will allow students to utilise their mobile phones when travelling to and from school to support their safety.

Students will be issued with their Yondr pouch during the first week of Term 1, 2022. Students will be required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. This will provide students with the support they need to refrain from engaging with their mobile phone during the day, in line with school policy. As per our current policy, parents and caregivers are to contact the front office on (02) 6684 2600 if they need to communicate information regarding their child/ward.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in other learning institutions. Yondr surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**

Examples of the success of Yondr can be found:

- Lismore HS (NSW): <https://bit.ly/2CUBDOe>
- Daylesford Secondary College (VIC): <https://bit.ly/2LhZz2o>
- Corinda State HS (QLD): <https://bit.ly/37sL6tB>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly through our email mullumbimb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 6684 2600.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school for 2022.

Greg Armstrong
Principal

How Yondr Works



POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

This process has not changed. Parent/caregivers are to contact the front office in the event of a family emergency or when pick up information etc has changed so that assistance can be facilitated. Parents/caregivers are able to contact the main office on (02) 6684 2600.

What if there is an emergency?

In case of an emergency, student and staff safety will take priority. If an evacuation is needed, staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks, whilst maintaining sight of their backpack during this time. If bags are left in a room by the class, the door will be locked to ensure safety.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch is property of Mullumbimby High School, as the school has provided the pouch free of charge. If a student damages or tampers with a Yondr pouch, they will be held responsible.

- **In All Cases:** The student's phone will be confiscated by the school. Failure to abide by this instruction may result in a suspension.
- **First Occasion:** the student will be allowed to take the phone home at the end of the day and a pouch replacement fee of \$15 will be invoiced. The student will not be able to have their phone at school until their replacement pouch has been paid for and issued.
- **Second Occasion:** On the second occasion, the student will not be allowed to collect their phone until a meeting with the deputy principal occurs with the student and a parent/caregiver.

Note: Damage 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.

What if my child does not place their phone in the pouch?

- **In All Cases:** The phone will be confiscated by a member of the executive team and placed in a safe location till the end of the day. Failure to abide by this instruction may result in a suspension.
- **First Occasion:** The student will be issued with a formal caution and be allowed to take their phone home at the end of the school day.
- **Second Occasion:** The student's parents/caregiver will need to attend the school to collect the phone and their child. The student will not be allowed to return to school until a meeting with the deputy principal has taken place. This may result in a suspension for continued disobedience.

How can I clean my student's Yondr pouch?

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