

# MOBILE PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

## Purpose:

Seaview High School's **Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Devices Policy** is designed to minimise disruptions to student learning and to support safety and wellbeing at school. It provides direction to students, staff and families about managing personal mobile phones and other electronic devices (including but not limited to; smartwatches, Kindles, wireless and/or Bluetooth earbuds such as Air Pods, Google Pixel Buds, Galaxy Buds or equivalent) that students may choose to bring to school. The policy applies while students are present on school grounds, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, camp or similar.

Our school recognises that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours

However, the presence of mobile phones and other personal electronic devices in the classroom can also be a source of distraction that is detrimental to student learning. Furthermore, there is overwhelming research indicating a link between technology and mental health and wellbeing concerns within and outside of school.

**The state government** has committed to banning student access to mobile phones at school across all year levels, aside from agreed positive uses.

This is to help promote:

- safe environments with reduced negative impacts of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and critical incidents that involve mobile phones
- classroom environments where teachers can teach and students can learn free from distractions caused by personal use of devices
- use of breaks as quality time away from screens, encouraging physical activity and play and meaningful face-to-face connections with peers.

## Implementation:

From 2023 students at Seaview High School will be required to store their personal electronic devices "off and away" between the start and end of each school day. All personal electronic devices will be stored securely in a **YONDR** pouch. The **YONDR** pouch will be provided, free of charge to all students (Years 7 to 12) and remain the property of the school for the duration of their enrolment at Seaview HS. The pouch will be returned at the end of Year 12, or in the event that the student is made a leaver.

It will be the student's responsibility to bring their pouch to school each day. If a student loses their pouch, or if there is any deliberate or wilful damage to the pouch families will be invoiced for the replacement cost.

## Daily process for storing personal electronic devices:

Student mobile phones, smart watches and wireless/Bluetooth earbuds are **switched off** when entering the school grounds and placed securely in the **YONDR** pouch. The pouch is then locked using the magnetic fastener.

During Care Group (Tuesday to Friday) and Lesson 1 (Monday) students will place the locked **YONDR** pouch on their desks for checking. Students may choose to store their pouch in their locker, or carry it with them during the day. The **YONDR** pouch **remains locked** for the duration of the school day.

At the end of the school day, students unlock the **YONDR** pouch at one of the **secure unlocking stations**. In the event of a student leaving early (medical or family reasons) the pouch will be unlocked at Student Services.

### **Forgotten, Lost or Damaged Pouches:**

Students who fail to bring their **YONDR** pouch to school (due to loss, damage or forgetting to bring it) will hand in their personal devices to Student Services for safe keeping, as soon as they arrive at school.

If a pouch is deemed faulty due to manufacturer error, a replacement pouch will be issued, at no cost to the student.

If a pouch is deemed to have been tampered with, or damaged so that it cannot be secured, a replacement pouch will be purchased within **3 school days**. Replacement pouches are ordered from and paid for at Student Services.

For further information on **YONDR** pouches please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document on the school's website.

### **Headphones:**

- Students may bring wired or over-ear Bluetooth headphones for use **ONLY when expressly permitted by the teacher**.

### **Internet connection for personal and electronic devices:**

Mobile phones and personal electronic devices are not permitted to be connected to the school network.

The use of **Personal Hotspots at school is not permitted**. All students must turn their mobile phones off before placing them in their Yondr pouch at the start of the day.

### **Refusal to Comply:**

If a student does not comply with the above daily process guidelines, they will be deemed in breach of the policy and dealt with through the *Seaview High School Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Behaviour Support* process.

Repeated or deliberate refusal to comply will result in a student moving to the *Escalation of Concerning/Redirected Behaviours* process.

### **Exemptions:**

Students who require access to personal electronic device for medical reasons may request an exemption. Each request is judged on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Principal.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **School Leaders will ensure:**

- Implementation of the Department for Education's policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff and families
- There is a process for feedback and review
- Requests for exemptions from the school policy from parents/caregivers, or independent students are considered on a case-by-case basis
- One YONDR pouch is provided to each student
- Individual lockers and locks that are provided to students are secure
- Personal devices that are handed in to Student Services in the event of a lost or damaged pouch are stored safely
- Sufficient unlocking stations are provided to facilitate students' departure at the end of the school day
- Processes are in place for monitoring and ensuring safe internet and network use by all members of the school community.

### **The leadership team will:**

- Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance in line with the "Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Behaviour Support" process.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### **All teaching (and support staff, where applicable) will:**

- Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment
- Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment
- Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's Behaviour Support Policy
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of mobile phones and/or personal devices in line with school/department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements
- Ensure that any student mobile phones and/or personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent/caregiver)
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### **All Students will:**

- Comply with the requirements of the Department for Education's policy and Seaview High School's implementation guidelines
- If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device (in the event of an approved exemption) do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support their peers to do the same
- Use all electronic devices in accordance with the ICT Acceptable User Agreement
- Bring their YONDR pouch to school each day, and secure all personal devices as outlined in this policy.
- Take responsibility for the ongoing care and safe storage of their YONDR pouch, both within and outside of school.

**Parents/Caregivers will:**

- Support the Department for Education’s policy and Seaview High School’s implementation guidelines
- Use the school’s communication channels (email or phone call to Front Office or Student Services) to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school)
- Encourage their child to follow the Department for Education’s policy and Seaview High School’s implementation guidelines
- Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone and personal electronic devices in a safe, responsible and respectful way
- Purchase a replacement YONDR pouch for their child (if lost or damaged) within 3 school days.

**Evaluation and Review:**

The implementation of major policy change, major changes to policy procedures and/or a new policy will include opportunities for feedback and review.

Policies are reviewed as part of the school’s ongoing review cycle.

Ratified by Governing Council:	14 June 2023
Date of Review:	June 2026