

# BONALBO CENTRAL SCHOOL

*~Lifelong Learning for a Positive Future~*



08.04.2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are happy to announce that, starting day one Term 2, we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called [Yondr](#).

The Yondr Program uses a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr Pouch when they arrive at roll call. Students will maintain possession of their phones but will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day.

We want to assure families that you can still reach your child/ren by contacting the Front Office on 6665 1205.

It should be noted that Yondr pouches are a tool to assist students in complying with the ruling that Bonalbo Central School is a mobile phone-free space in line with the Department's Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services policy specifically:

1.3 - Secondary school principals, in consultation with their communities, have discretion to make decisions about restricting or permitting student use of digital devices and online services in all school related settings, including at recess, lunch and during class.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

Yondr recently 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

Please take the time to read the following pages that provide further information. In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Kathryn Taylor



## BONALBO CENTRAL SCHOOL

### STUDENT PHONE POLICY & PROCEDURES 2022

**Phones are not to be used during the school day unless under the direction of staff.** Every student will be assigned a numbered Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is school property, it is each student's responsibility to use the Pouch as intended and keep it in good working condition.

#### DAILY PROCESS

When students enter roll call, they will:

1. Turn off their phone.
2. Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping it against the Unlocking Base.
3. Place their phone inside their Pouch and securely close it in front of staff.
4. Store their Pouch in their backpack for the day.

At the end of the day, students will:

1. Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping it against the Unlocking Base.
2. Remove their phone and close their Pouch.
3. Place their Pouch in the tub provided, ready for the following day.

\*Students arriving late or leaving early will follow this process at the Front Office when they sign in/out.

#### 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.



## **VIOLATIONS**

### Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch

Students are expected to take responsibility for their Yondr Pouch.

Damaged or lost pouches will incur a \$15 replacement fee as well as disciplinary action.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap
- Graffiti – pen/texta marks.



### Using Phone During School / Deliberate Deception

If a student is found to be using their phone during the school day, disciplinary action will occur as outlined below.

The same consequences will apply if a student deliberately damages their Pouch or tries to circumvent the daily process (i.e. put something other than their usual phone in the Pouch/use other methods to open their Pouch).

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

If the daily process is not followed or deliberate damage/deception occurs, a student will be given a verbal warning and a negative incident recorded. Their phone/Pouch will be placed in the Front Office and returned to the student at the end of the day.

A second offence will result in a formal warning of suspension and a negative incident recorded. Their phone/Pouch will be placed in the Front Office and a parent/carer will need to come to the school for a conversation and return of the phone.

A third (and subsequent) offences may result in suspension for continued disobedience. Their phone/Pouch will be placed in the Front Office and a parent/carer will need to come to the school for a conversation and return of the phone.

Refusal to hand in their phone/Pouch as requested may result in suspension.

## **COMMUNICATION**

When necessary, parents/carers can contact the school (6665 1205) to leave a message for students.

If students need to get a message to their parents/carers, they are to come to the Front Office during break times and contact will be made.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

There may be times where a staff member will unlock a student's Pouch.

During lessons that require or would be enriched by the use of mobile phones, unlocking stations would be provided for educational purposes.

The Principal or delegate has the discretion to unlock Pouches as required or in emergencies.

Parents/carers of students who require their phone for medical reasons are to discuss this with the Principal. Such exemptions will be determined on individual needs.

## **REVIEW**

This policy and its procedures will be trialled during Term 2 2022 and then regularly reviewed to ensure processes are fair and effective.

08.04.2022

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Will my child's phone be safe?**

Yes. Students are in possession of their phone – in their Yondr Pouch – for the entire school day. Students are to store it in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

### **Will my child's phone be affected by the Pouch?**

No. The Pouch will not damage or affect the phone.

### **What if I need to reach my child during the school day?**

Please call the Front Office on 6665 1205 to leave a message for your child/ren.

### **What if there is an emergency?**

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. If required, 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. As usual, we will contact you if required, so please ensure we have up-to-date phone numbers for you and your child's emergency contacts.

### **What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?**

If a student normally uses their phone for medical purposes (i.e. to check their sugar levels if they are diabetic), their Health Care Plan will need to be updated and allowances will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the school to discuss.

### **What if the Pouch gets damaged/lost?**

The Yondr Pouch belongs to Bonalbo Central School just like any other school equipment. If a student damages or loses a Yondr Pouch, he/she will be held responsible and consequences may apply. A \$15 replacement fee will also incur.

### **Can the Pouch be cleaned?**

Yes, and for hygiene this will occur. Pouches can be washed on a cold/warm short cycle and air dried or dried on a low-heat short cycle. They can also be cleaned with a mild disinfectant or sanitising wipe.

### **Is there a cost involved?**

No. The school loans one Yondr Pouch free to every secondary student whilst they are enrolled. However, if the Pouch is damaged or lost, students will need to pay a \$15 replacement fee.