

Athboy Community School



Mobile Phone Policy

Ratified November 2025

Introduction

As part of our focus on wellbeing, and in order to ensure a healthy, engaging and safe environment for all members of our school community, we are a **Mobile Phone free school** during the school day (08:00-15:40).

Athboy Community School recognises that mobile phones are an integral part of young people's culture and way of life, and can have considerable benefits and value when used appropriately. However, we are also cognisant that phones can be a huge distraction, can hinder communication and socialisation and can contribute to high levels of anxiety and stress among young people, and adults alike.

The aim of this policy is to protect the wellbeing of all within Athboy Community School and it should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Learning Code
- Acceptable use Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

Mobile Phone Guidelines

- Athboy Community School is a **Mobile Phone free zone** during the school day i.e. 08:00 - 15:40 (including break and lunchtimes) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursdays and Friday.
- Every student will have a **Yondr Pouch** which is theirs to keep for the school year. This Yondr Pouch will be marked with a unique identifier code and a record will be kept of each student's code.
- Please note students are only permitted to bring **one mobile phone to school.**
- All phones must be switched off and placed in their Yondr Pouch prior to entering the school building, and be kept there for the day. Their Yondr Pouch is to be kept with them for the school day.
- At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouch, using the unlocking stations provided at main door of the school.
- If a student arrives after 08:50, they must place their phone in their Yondr Pouch upon arrival.
- If a student needs to leave school early, following the correct procedures, they will release their phone from its Yondr pouch at the Main Office, as they are signing out.

- The only exception to using the Yonder pouch is if the student does not and will not possess a mobile phone for the academic year. Parents / Guardians must contact the school if there is an issue with using the pouch.
- Tutors/Year Heads may conduct checks on Yondr pouches to ensure compliance with the policy.
- Teachers may unlock pouches during classes or on trips to allow access to phones for a specific purpose. Students must comply with these arrangements.

Breach of the Mobile Phone Policy

- Any student found with a mobile phone not in their Yondr pouch or found using a mobile phone during school hours **will have the phone confiscated. A Red Note on the Learning Code may be issued and the student may be required to do an after school detention.**
- Students who bring in multiple phones **will have the phone/s confiscated. A Red Note on the Learning Code may be issued and the student may be required to do an after school detention.**
- The phone will be placed in the Main Office and Parents / Guardians will be contacted. Phones will be available for collection by Parents / Guardians from the Main Office **between 8am and 4pm Monday-Thursday and to 2pm on Fridays.** If unable to collect at this time, phones may be collected by Parents / Guardians the following school day between 09:30 and 16:50.
- Phones **will not** be returned to students.
- Repeated breaches of this Policy may lead to **further and more serious sanctions up to and including suspension(s).**
- Phone that are confiscated will be held in the school office in a secure location. **The school does not accept responsibility for any damage that may occur to the phone while in storage.**

Forgotten / Damaged Pouches

- If a student forgets their Yondr Pouch, they will be asked to leave their phone in the Main Office for the day. **Students who show a pattern of forgetting their pouch may be given an Amber Note and/or detention. Repeated breaches will result in more serious sanctions.**

- In rare circumstances (such as where a student brings the phone to school, choosing to not use the pouch, and uses the phone to cyberbully or post videos of others), students may have to present their phone at reception or to the year head for the duration of the school day. Parents will have to come in to discuss the situation with the year head.
- Any student who purposely interferes with or damages their Yondr pouch or the Yondr pouch of any other student is liable to a serious sanction, up to and including suspension.