

## Scope

This school policy is implemented in line with the Department for Education's [Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy](#), which applies to all government schools. This document provides direction to students, staff, and families about managing personal devices that students choose to bring to school.

For the purposes of this policy, **personal devices** include:

- mobile phones
- smart watches and other digital devices that are capable of sending or receiving messages or calls and/or able to connect to the internet
- personal laptops, iPads, tablets that are not owned by the school, and were not brought to school by the student under a separate BYOD agreement
- any other digital devices with capability of connecting to a cellular communication network, the internet, or both.

## Rationale

With the widespread and increasing ownership of mobile phones and other devices among students, it is critical that schools, in partnership with families, provide clear guidance for students to become informed, safe, respectful, and responsible digital citizens.

It is the Department for Education's position that access to personal devices during school hours must be managed so that students can be fully present in their learning and in their interactions with their teachers and peers.

The aim of this policy 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.

## Personal Devices at School

Students are permitted to bring personal devices to school:

- as a measure to ensure their safety while travelling to and from school
- so parents and part-time employers can contact them outside of school hours
- so they can be contacted about a person under their care, where applicable
- to be used during school hours in line with an exemption under this policy, if approved by the school.

While students are at school, or attending school activities, they must comply with any reasonable directions given by school staff in line with this policy regarding their personal devices.

The Department for Education's policy requires all students at all department schools to **keep personal devices 'off and away' between the start and end of each school day, and while they are attending school activities off-site, such as camps and excursions.**

Students will not be able to access their personal devices at any time during school hours, unless they have received an approved [exemption](#) from the school to use the device for a specific, agreed reason. This means both physical access and remote access (e.g. connecting with the personal device via hotspot or using paired headphones).

## Storage of Personal Devices at School

Students will turn their devices off or place them in flight mode before putting them away. This includes taking off and storing any wearable technology that fits the definition of this policy, such as smartwatches.

In line with the new government policy, Seaton High School has implemented the **Yondr Program** to comply with the strict ban.

### About Yondr

Yondr is currently used globally in over 2000 schools as well as at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage participants to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone and wearable technology that fits the definition of this policy, such as smartwatches.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in learning institutions. In 2019, Yondr surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 69% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 84% of schools saw an increase in student engagement in the classroom
- 80% of schools saw a decrease in behaviour referrals.

We believe the Yondr Program allows students to:

- be more mindful and less distracted
- be more engaged in classroom activities
- improve their communication and interpersonal skills.

How the Yondr Program works:

- students are provided with a Yondr pouch when they begin at Seaton High School. If this is lost or damaged, families are responsible for purchasing a replacement Yondr pouch. If looked after, the Yondr pouch should last for the duration of a student's time at Seaton High School
- all students are required to secure their phones and other devices in their personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school each morning
- students will not have access to their phones during the school day – with very few exceptions
- students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times, even if they do not bring a personal device to school
- students will maintain possession of their phones, and will not use them until they are unlocked at the end of the school day, using unlocking stations located strategically around the school.



### ENTRY

Students will unlock their personally allocated pouch at the contact stations located at the entrance areas of the school.



### SECURE

Place mobile phone and other devices in pouch and close. Mobile phone will remain locked in pouch and in the student's possession for the day.



### EXIT


Students tap contact station as they exit the school to unlock and access mobile phone.

Where students use a personal device at school without an approved exemption, or use it inappropriately, a response will be provided in line with the school's behaviour support policy.


We deal with a phone infringement like any other infringement of a school rule, ie, we use the **step system**. In the case of a phone infringement, some responses are specific to this particular infringement.

Please see below for a summary of the response to a phone infringement:

### Step 1: First official warning


 **Teacher** directs the student to place their phone in their Yondr pouch

### Step 2: Second warning

 **Teacher** directs the student to place their phone in their Yondr pouch

 **Year Level Coordinator** contacts the parent/caregiver and informs of breach of rules

### Step 3: Third warning

 Phone is confiscated

 **Year Level Coordinator** contacts the parent/caregiver and informs of confiscation.

The student can collect the phone by speaking to a Year Level Coordinator at the end of the day.  
They cannot leave a class early to do this.

If a student receives Step 3 (ie, Confiscation) across two different classes, the student will be placed on Internal Suspension.

### Step 4: Internal Suspension

 **Year Level Coordinator** contacts the parent/caregiver and follows normal suspension process.

A phone management plan will be created for students who receive suspensions for breaching the mobile phone policy.

## Exemptions

### Exceptional circumstances

Individual students may have extenuating reasons for needing access to their personal device during school hours, such as where:

- the device is used to monitor or help manage a health condition
- the device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with a disability or learning difficulties
- the device is used for translation by a student with English as an additional language
- the student has extenuating personal circumstances that require them to have more ready access to their personal device, such as being a parent themselves or a primary carer to a younger sibling or unwell family member.

Please contact the school if you need to request an exemption due to exceptional circumstances. These requests will be considered by the principal (or delegate) on a case-by-case basis. If approved, the exemption will be recorded in the student's file or health care/learning plan as appropriate.

### Temporary exemptions for other agreed purposes

The following temporary exemptions may be made available to students. All exemptions are subject to the device being used appropriately and only for the purpose specifically permitted by the teacher. Personal devices must be put 'off and away' immediately after the exempted activity has concluded.

- Class teachers may give permission for students (on an individual or whole-class basis) to use personal devices in the classroom for a specified learning activity.
- Students may be permitted to bring personal devices on a camp or excursion for learning purposes and/or to facilitate contact with their families at specified and supervised times. Expectations regarding student use of devices on the camp or excursion will be detailed in parent consent information.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Principal

- Make sure:
  - The school's policy has been endorsed or ratified by governing council and is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
  - there is a process for regular review of the school's local policy
  - secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff
  - processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.
- Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.
- Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents or independent students due to exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions in this category are documented and that relevant staff, including temporary relief teachers, are informed about students with an exemption.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support school staff to do the same. Support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible, and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate or illegal use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.

## School staff

- 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 policy.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.
- Ensure students who are given permission to access their personal device use it appropriately and only for the specified purpose, and store their personal devices away after the exempted activity has concluded.
- Consider and approve, at discretion, temporary exemptions in line with the conditions outlined in this policy.
- Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent) by the end of the same school day.
- 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. Use mobile phones for work-related/emergency purposes only when students are under their care.

## Students

- Comply with the requirements of this policy and follow all reasonable directions from the principal and school staff.
- Switch all personal devices off, or into flight mode, on arrival at school each day and store it away as specified in this policy.
- If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible, and respectful way and support peers to do the same.
- Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass, or threaten another person.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film, or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.
- Notify a school staff member as soon as possible if feeling unwell or experiencing any other issues at school. Use the school's sign-out processes in all cases where requiring early collection from school.

## Parents

- Support the school's implementation of this policy, including the consequences for non-compliance.
- Encourage their child not to bring a personal device to school unless necessary. Understand that the department does not provide insurance for accidental loss or damage to personal property that is brought onto school grounds (however, claims may be met under the department's public liability insurance where the loss or damage can be attributed to a negligent act or omission on the part of the school – the school will contact the department for advice if this may be the case).
- Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school or to make contact with their child during school hours (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.
- Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

## Questions, Concerns, and Further Information

This policy has been implemented by the school in line with the Department for Education's 'Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy'. You can find more information about this policy, and links to further resources for parents about personal devices and online safety, on the department's website: [Mobile phones and personal devices at school \(education.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-at-school).

If you have any questions or concerns about the department's policy, you can contact the department at:

**Email:** [education.customers@sa.gov.au](mailto:education.customers@sa.gov.au) or submit an [online feedback form](#)

**Phone:** Free call: 1800 088 158

Please contact the school directly to discuss the possibility of an exemption if your child has exceptional circumstances as outlined in this policy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Through our planning and consultation with students, we have developed a series of Frequently Asked Questions. The responses to the questions provide information in terms of the processes used in the Yondr Program.

Please refer to **Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy FAQs**