

## 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

### **Why are you changing the school's policy and removing student access to mobile phones during the day?**

The purpose of James Nash SHS is to engage every student in building the social and academic skills necessary for them to excel in their future employment or educational pathway. We also strive for inclusivity by working together to remove barriers for all students to ensure successful outcomes. The decision to limit student access to mobile phones during the school day is to:

- increase student engagement and remove what has become a barrier to learning
- allow students further opportunities to build stronger social and academic skills
- significantly decrease students' ability to access inappropriate content or engage in cyberbullying
- further strengthen and protect the privacy of students and staff members
- remove a point of contention for students and teachers in the classroom
- build self-control and self-mastery around what has become a societal addiction
- help prepare students for the workforce where access to phones during shifts is usually not allowed.

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

We want our students to be engaged in their learning and not be distracted by, or distract others with, mobile phones. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please contact Student Services by calling (07) 5480 6333 and a message will be passed on to them.

### **My child needs access to a phone before and after school because we live a long way from the school, they travel on a bus, our pick-up arrangements regularly change, etc.**

Students lock their phones in their Yondr pouch as soon as they enter the school grounds and then unlock them as they leave. This means they will have access to their phones at these highlighted times of the day once they have left the site.

### **My child needs access to their phone during the day for reasons relating to their health, casual work, travel arrangements home, etc. Are there any circumstances where my student can access their phone at school?**

Students who need to make a specific call or check their messages for reasons like those listed above will be able to access their mobile phone during the day in allocated places under the direct supervision of school staff. On rare occasions, teachers may also allow and closely monitor students' use of their phones for a set period of time in class to achieve certain learning goals or to complete a specific task. This is more likely to happen in practical classes like The Arts, Digital Technology and HPE, but will not be a common practice.

### **What if there is a school emergency?**

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first following our school emergency preparedness protocol. This includes the school making contact with and notifying parents and guardians, if and when necessary.

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

Students are in possession of their phone – locked in their Yondr pouch – for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their school bags. Students and parents are reminded that – like laptops, wallets, or other personal items – the school cannot guarantee the safety of an individual's mobile phone and that they bring it at their own risk. The safest place for a student's mobile phone is for it to remain at home.

### **What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged?**

The Yondr pouch is the property of James Nash State High School and is to be returned to the school on the completion of Year 12 or when a student's enrolment is discontinued. If a student damages their pouch, they will be issued a new one with the cost of the replacement being charged to their account and parents receiving an invoice for payment. Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentionally or unintentionally, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

### **What if a student is caught on their phone?**

The Executive Leadership Team will be discussing directly with a committee of students what they think the consequences should be for a student caught with their mobile phone. A suggestion that works well in other schools is that the student will be required to submit their phone to Student Services where it can be collected by a parent or guardian at a later time. Like other expectations of the school, repeated violation of the school's mobile phone policy is likely to result in further consequences including a potential suspension from school.

### **My child currently uses their phone during breaks to pass the time. What will they do now?**

The school will be increasing extra-curricula options for students to engage with at lunch times as well as providing greater access to sports equipment and facilities for student use. We also welcome input from students on what they would like the school to offer during breaks for them to participate in.

### **My child currently uses their phone during breaks to help calm their anxiety. What will they do now?**

The school has a Student Support hub located in E Block called "Wunya Ngulum" ("Welcome Everyone"). In this space, students have access to bean bags, couches, board and card games, art supplies, quiet spaces, and school support staff to help them regulate their anxiety without the need to connect with mobile phone technology. They will also still have access to their classroom learning device which they can use in this space if they need to interact with a screen.

### **My child uses their phone to access their timetable, Daymap, and other online tools used by the school.**

Laptops can perform almost all of the functions that a mobile phone can and, since James Nash SHS is a BYOd school, the compulsory requirement for all students to have a laptop negates the need for a mobile phone to access these resources.

### **My child uses their phone to pay for tuckshop.**

The tuckshop has tap and go facilities so we encourage students to use their physical EFTPOS card or cash when purchasing from the tuckshop at this point in time. The Executive team will start a dialogue soon with the P&C to discuss the possibility of introducing an online ordering system to create greater ease for students and families when purchasing from the tuckshop.

### **My child says that the school WiFi network is too slow and that accessing the internet through their phone is quicker.**

The school's internet bandwidth is being significantly upgraded in 2023 from 100MB to 1GB which will allow students a faster online experience.

### **What if my child has an Apple Watch or other Bluetooth devices like headphones? How are these affected by the change in policy?**

Mobile phones are to be switched off before they are locked in the Yondr pouch which will eliminate their connectivity to smart watches and their messaging functionality. Headphones are to remain out of sight during class time unless teachers allow their use for learning purposes. It will be assumed that any student seen with headphones that are not connected to a laptop are using them in conjunction with a mobile phone and, therefore, will be subject to the consequences of that behaviour as stated in the new mobile phone policy.

### **When does my child have to lock their phone?**

The school's mobile phone policy will be gate-to-gate meaning that students must lock their turned off mobile phone in their Yondr pouch before they enter the school grounds and then they can unlock them as they leave the through the gate in the afternoon.

### **My child follows the current mobile phone policy without fault. Why are they being punished (i.e. losing access to their phones) because of the behaviours of others?**

Limiting access to mobile phones during school hours should not be considered a punishment. In alignment with ongoing research and in response to the survey data recently collected by the leadership team, this change in policy is to help increase both academic and social engagement for your child at school. Any anti-social behaviours that are also negated by the removal of phones from school is an additional benefit.