



YONDR POUCH IMPLEMENTATION

Maclean High School is writing to share the exciting news that we are partnering with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space from the **1st March 2021**.

We understand that mobile phones are a great utility, but mobile phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, anti-social behaviour and conflict both at home and at school.

The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

In an effort to best serve your child, we will need your full support in adoption of the Yondr program at our school. We want to assure our families that you can reach your student at the Front Office on 6645 2244.

It is important that the students do not feel like their phone is trapped, however, some students will struggle during the transition period. We thank you for your continued support in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

How Yondr Works



POUCH

As you enter the phone free space, your phone is placed in a Yondr pouch by our staff.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. It is handed back to you. You'll keep it throughout the event.



EXIT

When leaving the space, you'll tap the pouch on an unlocking base to release your phone.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Contact the school's main front office on 6645 2244 to reach your child.

What if there is an emergency?

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School 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.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch belongs to Maclean High School just like any other school supply. If a student damages a Yondr pouch, he/she will be held responsible. The student's phone and pouch will be confiscated and discipline processes will be followed (See MHS Mobile Phone Policy). The phone policy will be revised to reflect the YONDR philosophy. This will be sent to families when it is finalised.

Some Worthwhile Reading

Phones reduce the amount of time students are bored. Whilst this sounds positive, research has tested and shown that boredom is a driver of creativity and productivity. Boredom allows the mind time to wander, consider complex ideas and form opinions and perspective. People exposed to small periods of boredom for example give more to charities, are kinder to others and actively become more involved in their physical and social environment. Reducing student screen time might increase some boredom but will improve their life.

Andrew Bastawrous, an ophthalmologist says, "There's definitely a myopia epidemic. Many more people are becoming short-sighted than they were a decade ago". This is thought to be a combination of mobile phone usage and a reducing in focusing outside on people and the environment (also affected by mobile phone usage). "The growth of the eye tends to slow down in your late teens and stop. But what's happening is that it isn't stopping. It seems to continue". The implications of this are not just that there are more people needing glasses, potentially severe visual impairment can result in glaucoma retinal detachment and another retinal problems.

According to recent research people tap, swipe, and click an average of 2,617 times per day. For the top 10 percent of users, this number doubled to 5,427 touches per day. Data collected from Apple and Google show that average users unlock their phones 110 times per day. That is equivalent to six to seven times per lesson regardless of if the phone is on the desk or on silent in their pocket or bag. This shows the 'old' strategy is not helping our students succeed.

In the second half of last year more than a quarter of incidents recorded by teachers relate to inappropriate use of mobile phones. Over the same time the phrase "mobile phone" was written 1224 times in relation to negative student behaviour. According to research, (conducted by Spears, Keeley, Bates, & Katz), one in five young people under 18 (20%) reported experiencing online bullying in any one year and of those incidents almost a fifth of victims are exclusively bullied through devices such as mobile phones.

The biggest lament of teachers in regard to mobile phones is that they lead to student distraction and off task behaviour. Texting a friend is a tempting diversion that many students select over being part of the lesson. Observations of student toilet usage during class time indicate that 1 in 10 toilet breaks appear to be coordinated between friends in different classes through the use of mobile phones. The amount of time students are spending out of the classroom to relieve themselves has doubled.

Teenagers who spend five or more hours a day on electronic devices are 71% more likely to have a risk factor for suicide than those who spend less than an hour a day. Young people who use screens this much are also 52% more likely to sleep less than seven hours a night – a significant amount of sleep deprivation with potential consequences for both physical and mental health. The more time young adults spend on social media, the more likely they are to be depressed or lonely. (The Guardian – 12 January 2018)