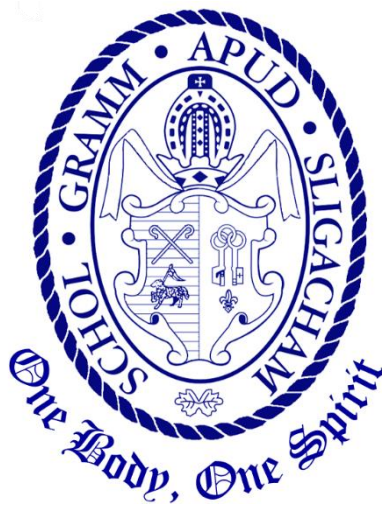


# SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## Mobile Phone & Personal Smart Device Policy

## 1. Introduction

Sligo Grammar School recognises that mobile phones are now an integral part of young people's culture and way of life and can have considerable value when used appropriately. However, we are also cognisant that phones can be a distraction, can hinder communication and socialisation and can add to anxiety and stress levels among students.

The aim of this policy is to protect the well-being of all within the school community and enhance teaching and learning. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Acceptable Internet Use Policy

## 2. Policy

- Sligo Grammar School is a mobile phone/personal smart device free zone during the school day. This includes smart phones/watches, ear pods and personal tablets etc.
- On entering the school building, students will be required to turn their phone off and place it in their Yondr pouch, where it will remain until the end of the school day. Yondr pouches will be unlocked using the Yondr unlocking device at the school exit which will be accessible to all students at the end of the school day.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep their Yondr pouch in a safe and secure location (e.g. in their school locker during the school day).
- If a Student has their phone out of the Yondr Pouch during the school day the mobile phone will be confiscated for:

1 <sup>st</sup> Time	Mobile taken for 3 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> Time	Mobile taken for 5 days
3 <sup>rd</sup> Time	Mobile taken for 10 days
- Depending on the circumstance of the incident, this breach of behaviour will be considered a serious breach of school rules and may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
- If a mobile phone is taken due to a breach of the Yondr policy, parents will be contacted by the school prior to their son/daughter leaving school.
- The student will be afforded the opportunity to phone their parent/guardian prior to leaving school.

- Should a student bring a replacement mobile phone to school in addition to the phone placed in the Yondr pouch (or in place of a confiscated mobile phone) both phones will be confiscated. Such behaviour will be considered a serious breach of discipline and will result in immediate suspension from school.
- Students are reminded that payment for lunch in the canteen by mobile phone/smart device is not permitted. Payment by card is facilitated.
- All communication during the school day between students and parents/guardian must be through the school office via email (admin@sligogrammarschool.org) or phone (071-9145010).
- Students who sign out of school early, do so in the usual fashion (via email from parent or via the VSware app). Office staff will release their phone from the Yondr pouch when they are signing out.
- The Yondr pouch may be opened by a teacher using a portable unlocking device for supervised phone use during class activities. The phone may only be used for the purpose instructed by the teacher and any alternative use would be deemed a breach of this policy.
- For school excursions and trips, students should have their phone secured in the Yondr pouch for the bus journey. Upon arrival at the destination, the accompanying teacher may unlock the Yondr pouch using the portable unlocking device, to allow students to access their phone for a period of time. Phones must be secured in the Yondr pouch upon return to the bus.
- For students requiring regular access to their mobile phone for medical reasons e.g. monitoring blood sugar, an adapted Yondr pouch is available upon receipt of a consultant's letter detailing the reason for the required access. Staff will be notified of any student possessing an adapted Yondr pouch.
- The Yondr pouches remain the property of Sligo Grammar School. Any loss of or damage to the Yondr pouch will incur a charge to the parent/guardian of €20 to provide for a replacement pouch.
- All Yondr pouches will be inspected periodically to ensure that they are still functional and being kept in good order.
- If a student forgets their Yondr pouch, a spare pouch will be available from the front office and must be returned at the end of the school day. Repeated instances will require the purchase of a new pouch.
- Charging of any device in the Yondr pouch is strictly prohibited.
- As per the school examinations rules, no mobile phones/personal smart devices are allowed in the examination centre.

## Review History

Policy reviewed and approved by the Board of Management: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Headmaster

Due for next review: August 2025

### Review history

Drafted by Senior Leadership Team	September 2022	Draft 1
Staff	December/January 2022/23	Draft 1
Parents' Association	December/January 2022/23	Draft 2
Student Council	December/January 2022/23	Draft 2
Policy reviewed and approved by the Board of Management	15/01/2023	
Reviewed August 2024		