



## MCS Wellbeing Programme

### Mobile Phone Policy

As part of our **MCS Wellbeing Policy**, 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 (08:45-15:50). This policy will come into effect following the Christmas Holidays in January 2024.

Malahide 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 Malahide Community School and it should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour
- Acceptable use Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

#### Mobile Phone Process:

- Malahide Community School is a **Mobile Phone free zone** during the school day i.e. 08:45 - 15:50 (including break and lunchtimes) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 08:45 - 13:10 on Wednesdays.
- Every student will receive 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.**
- Should a student choose to bring a phone to school, it must be switched off and placed in their **Yondr Pouch at the beginning of period 1 (08:45) at the latest**, 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 around the school.
- If a student arrives after 08:45, they must lock their phone in their **Yondr Pouch upon arrival.**

# Malahide Community School

## Pobalscoil Íosa

Principal: David Hayes

Deputy Principal: Jean-Marie Ward

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- 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.
- Parents / Guardians are asked to contact the school if their child chooses not to bring a Mobile Phone to school for the current academic year.

### **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.**
- 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 16:20 and 16:50. 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.
- If a student is in breach of this Policy for a second time, the phone will be confiscated again, as above, **and the student will receive an official detention.**
- Repeated breaches of this Policy may lead to **further and more serious sanctions up to and including suspension(s).**
- Students who bring in multiple phones are liable to be suspended.
- Students who say they have not brought a phone to school, and are subsequently found to have one, are liable to be suspended.

### **Forgotten / Damaged Pouches:**

- Any loss or damage of the Yondr Pouch, which renders it unusable, will result in the student funding a replacement Yondr Pouch at a cost of €20.
- If a student forgets their Yondr Pouch, they will be asked to leave their phone in the Main Office for the day.
- **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.**
- **Students must return the Yondr Pouch they were assigned at the end of the school year.**