

Dear Parents/carers

Guyra Central School is writing to share the exciting news that we are partnering with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space from the beginning of Week 6 Term 4.

We understand that mobiles have great utility, but mobile phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, antisocial behaviour and conflict both at home and at school.

Guyra Central School believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all of its students. Research shows that the mere presence of mobiles in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance. According to a survey and report from Common Sense Media that involved 1,240 interviews with parents and their 12 to 18-year-old children, 50% of teens feel attached to their mobile devices, and 59% of their parents agree that their kids have a problem putting their devices down (U.S. News & World Report).

Yondr is currently used across the world in hundreds of classrooms and schools, at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr program employs a simple, easy-to-use case that stores a mobile and requires an unlocking base to open. When students enter school grounds they will place their phone in a Yondr case which is then locked. Students maintain possession of their phones but will not be able to use them until they are unlocked at the end of the day. During lessons that require or would be enriched by the use of mobile phones, unlocking stations would be provided for educational purposes.

We believe this will allow our students to be:

- Engaged in classroom activities and assignments
- Less dependent on electronics to do classwork
- Less likely to engage in conversations around bullying
- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in class

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 main office on (02) 6779 0844.

It is important that the students do not feel like their phone is trapped but some students will still 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.

Below is a summary of the of the policy:

1. Your child will remain in possession of their mobile phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch throughout the school day. They must ensure that their phone is switched off or that aeroplane mode is activated whilst it is in the pouch. Phones will be locked in the students assigned pouch during roll call and will remain in the pouch until they are unlocked at the end of the school day.
2. The Yondr Pouch is the property of Guyra Central School. Yondr, issued by Guyra Central School is to be used for the sole purpose of storing mobile phones or other prohibited electronics. Students must ensure that they keep the Yondr Pouch in its original condition, free from damage of any kind. Damage to the pouch will result in the procedure in the policy being followed.
3. If a student fails to follow the policy, the procedures outlined in the policy will be adhered to. This will require the support of parents to ensure a safe learning environment, free from distractions.
4. The procedures outlined in the policy apply to other prohibited electronic devices including iPods and wireless headphones.

The procedures of non-compliance with the mobile phone policy are as follows:

1. If a student refuses to place the phone in the pouch or is identified with a phone not in a pouch throughout the day, the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day.
2. If a student refuses to hand the phone over parents will be notified to pick up the phone. Any refusal will be recorded as defiance and formal disciplinary proceedings may follow including suspension.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Sincerely,**

**Executive Staff of Guyra Central School**

<b>Principal Mrs Michelle Nicholson</b>	<b>Deputy Principal Mr Tim Lloyd</b>	<b>Instructional Leader Mrs Jennifer Atkin</b>	<b>Head of English and HSIE Mrs Susan Dolby</b>	<b>Assistant Principal Ms Meagan Grills</b>
<b>Assistant Principal Mrs Sjaan Mithell</b>	<b>Assistant Principal Mrs Browyn Paul</b>	<b>Head Teacher TAS Mrs Rebecca Smith</b>	<b>Head Teacher Mathematics and Science Mr David Moffitt</b>	<b>Head Teacher Wellbeing Mrs Linley Ryan</b>
<b>Head Teacher Wellbeing Mrs Kirsty Malby Miller</b>				

## HOW IT WORKS



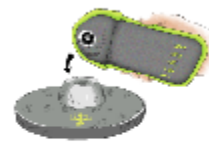
### CASE

As students enter the phone-free space, phones will be placed in a Yondr case.



### LOCK

Once inside, the case will lock. Students keep their phones throughout the day.



### UNLOCK

To unlock the case, tap it on any teacher or administrator's unlocking base.

*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.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Has this happened in other similar schools?

Guyra Central School is the third school in Australia to trial Yondr using this model but it has been implemented in over 600 schools in America and was introduced for a day at Daylesford Secondary College Victoria.

### Are Mobile Phones banned at Guyra Central School?

YES. Mobiles can be a very useful educational tool inside the classroom. Teachers will bring unlocking stations to the classroom where appropriate, allowing technology enhanced learning to occur.

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

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please contact the main office at (02) 6779 0844 to reach your student.

**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 case in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

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

Yes, because students are in possession of their phone in the Yondr case and should keep the case stored away in their backpacks.

**What if the case gets damaged or lost?**

The Yondr case is the property of Guyra Central School. The school will provide a replacement at the cost of \$10 to the student and/or have their phone placed in the school safe immediately.

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I ..... **(name of parent)** have read and agree to the terms of the Guyra Central School Policy on behalf of my child ..... **(Student name)** of year ..... I understand that from the 16th November my child's device is to be locked in the YONDR pouch during school hours in-line with the policy.

Please return this form to the front office at your earliest convenience.

Date: .....

Signature.....

If you have any issues or concerns you are invited to contact the Principal Mrs Michelle Nicholson to arrange a meeting.