Ysgol Aberconwy

Mobile Phone Policy

POLICY DOCUMENT NO: 73	ISSUE NO: 2

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FULL GOVERNING BODY

Signed:

Date: 30/06/26

Review due date : 30/06/29 **LT Link : IG**

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND :

The school recognises that mobile phones have a huge part to play in life in the modern world, but we also know that learning, mental-health and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. We recognise that there is now significant evidence of the negative impact of the use of mobile phones within a school setting, and that accessing social media through regular access to a mobile device has a negative impact on children's mental health. For example "teens who spend 6 to 9 hours a week on social media are 47% more likely to say they are unhappy than those who use social media less" (Twenge). "In 36 out of 37 countries loneliness at school has increased since 2012 (when social media began to include approval and like buttons) and have roughly doubled in Europe".

In a recent report published by ESTYN ("*We don't tell our Teachers*"), there were five main themes associated with the mobile phone as identified by the pupils. These were:

- peer pressure to have a high number of online 'friends', 'likes' and comments on profiles
- online bullying, posting hurtful comments about peers, in particular comments about appearance
- sexual objectification of photos of girls by boys; asking for, sending and sharing nude or semi-nude photographs
- catfishing, unsolicited friend requests or demands for nude photos by strangers or those with a fake social media profile
- Negative attitudes towards female characters and/or when girls play digital games.

More recently, Welsh Government has also set out priorities in this area and is currently consulting on statutory guidance.

This policy has been formed in response to this and similar research as well as engagement with our parents' forum, student council and school staff.

GUIDANCE ON MOBILE PHONE USE IN SCHOOL :

Ysgol Aberconwy is a phone free space.

This means that mobile phones are not to be used during school. Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

DAILY PROCESS

As students **Arrive to School**, they will:

1) Turn their phone off.
2) Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Stations positioned outside the PE department by the main gate to the school.
3) Place their cellphone inside the Pouch and secure it in front of school staff.
4) Store it in their school bag for the day.

At the end of the day, students will open their Pouch, remove their phone, close their Pouch and put it in their bag. Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day.

Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the reception area as they enter the school site

VIOLATIONS

Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using phone During School

If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, the pastoral team will collect the phone/Pouch and call home for a parent to collect it. The school may also issue additional sanctions as per our 'Behaviour and Discipline' Policy. In the case of damage to a pouch beyond repair, the student will be asked to purchase a new pouch for £10.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped fabric
- Cut
- Torn
- Bent/cut pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, **their phone will be collected, kept in Y Porth, and the pastoral team will call home to remind the Parent of the policy**. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered lost, and will be charged as above.

Appendix 1 :

These FAQs are considered to form part of this policy.

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. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the school's reception on 01492 593243 and they will connect you with your child's guidance mentor.

What if my child needs to contact me during the school day?
If your child needs to get in touch with you, they can visit Y Porth – where pastoral staff will either relay a message to you, or will be able to unlock the Yondr pouch so they can make contact themselves.

What if there is a school emergency?
In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency protocols. We will keep parents informed via the school's usual communication channels.

Will my child's phone be safe?
Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We advise students to store the pouch in their school bag where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?
The Yondr pouch is the property of the school. If a student damages their Pouch, it will be chargeable at the cost of £10 per pouch. If your child is found using their phone, it will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. If this happens repeatedly, we will ask parents to come and collect it, so we can discuss a way forward with you.
Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

What if my child needs to access their phone as a learning tool in a lesson?
If a teacher wishes students to make use of their phones in a lesson to aid learning (for example to take pictures in a media lesson, or to take a 'Kahoot' quiz in a Science lesson) they will be able to unlock the pouches in their lesson and will ensure that phones are securely locked away again after use.

What will my child do at lunchtimes?
The school will be developing the extra-curricular programme at the start of the September term to ensure there are activities all students can engage with.

My child uses their phone to photograph their timetable – how will they know what lessons they have?
We will be giving every student in the school a 'planner' so they can record important information, including their timetable, so they know where they are going from one lesson to the next.

Workload Impact Assessment

(Mobile Phone Policy – Issue 2, 2026)

Workload Impact Assessment

This workload impact assessment considers whether the updated Mobile Phone Policy (Issue 2, 2026) introduces any **new or additional workload demands** on teaching staff, support staff, school leaders or governors when compared with the previous version (Issue 1, 2023).

The assessment considers the day-to-day operation of the school's mobile phone procedures and associated pastoral processes.

Nature of Policy Change

The updated policy primarily:

- refreshes references to current national guidance and emerging Welsh Government policy relating to mobile phone use in schools;
- retains the existing Yondr pouch procedures, expectations and sanctions;
- maintains the existing operational arrangements for students, staff and parents.

The policy does **not** introduce any new operational systems or additional responsibilities beyond those already established within the school.

Impact on Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching and support staff will continue to:

- supervise existing Yondr pouch procedures;
- respond to incidents of mobile phone misuse in accordance with established pastoral systems;
- follow existing Behaviour and Discipline procedures where required.

No new classroom expectations, monitoring arrangements or administrative requirements have been introduced.

Assessment:
➡️ **No additional workload impact on teaching or support staff in normal operation.**

Impact on Leadership and Governors

Leadership responsibilities remain unchanged and continue to include:

- oversight of policy implementation;
- monitoring behaviour trends where appropriate;
- responding to any issues arising through existing pastoral and behaviour systems.

The policy introduces no additional reporting, governance or committee requirements.

Assessment:
➡️ Leadership and governor workload remains unchanged and reflects existing operational responsibilities.

Equality and Fairness Considerations

The policy continues to apply consistently to all students while recognising that reasonable adjustments may be required where individual pupils have identified additional learning or medical needs.

The updated wording strengthens the policy's alignment with current national guidance but does not introduce any additional workload associated with equality or inclusion.

Conclusion

This workload impact assessment concludes that the updated Mobile Phone Policy:

- does **not** introduce additional routine workload;
- maintains existing operational arrangements for the management of mobile phones during the school day;
- reflects updated national context without changing established school procedures;
- continues to support a consistent, fair and manageable approach to implementation.

Overall judgement:
➡️ **No adverse workload impact identified.**
