



Blackrock College Phone Free School



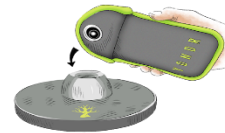
POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

In September 2022, our school became a phone-free space using a system called [Yondr](#). Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries.

Yondr's guiding philosophy is **Be Here Now** - which comes from the belief that there is a time and place for using technology in society. Smartphones bring great advantages but not in every setting. In some situations, they become a distraction cutting people off from each other and their immediate surroundings. How to successfully integrate them into our lives as a useful tool, rather than a compulsive habit, is a big, unanswered question of the Digital Age.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 schools to measure the effects of creating phone-free environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom.

The Yondr Programme utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a 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.

There will be student workshops and further information for parents outlining the rationale and to ensure a positive implementation of a programme which we believe will contribute significantly to the well-being of everyone in our school community.