

Phone Locker Pouches – Parent/Carer FAQs

Why is the academy introducing Phone Locker pouches?

This change strengthens our existing mobile phone policy. While phones are already not permitted to be seen or heard, the pouch provides a physical barrier that removes temptation, improves focus, and supports safeguarding during the school day.

Is this a ban on mobile phones?

No. Phones are not confiscated or removed. Students keep their phones with them at all times, but they cannot access them during the school day.

Why is this happening now?

There is increasing national and international concern about the impact of mobile phones and social media on young people. Governments, educators and health professionals are actively reviewing how best to protect learning, wellbeing and safeguarding. DFE expectations for all schools are very clear “The parameters of our ‘mobile phones in schools’ guidance are clear: pupils **should not have access** to their mobile phones through-out the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime”.

Where can I find more information about the DFE guidelines for schools?

Here is the link to the document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

Does the academy already have a phone policy?

Yes. Our current policy is effective and behaviour is strong. However, phones are still accessed at unstructured times. The pouch helps ensure consistent expectations for all students.

What about emergencies?

Staff can unlock pouches immediately if required. Phones remain with students at all times.

What about medical needs?

Students who require access to a device for medical reasons (for example, diabetes monitoring) will have an alternative pouch or exemption. Families will be contacted individually.

How does this improve wellbeing?

Reducing access to phones during the day limits social media pressure, anxiety from notifications, and online conflict, helping students to be more present and engaged.

Will this improve learning and behaviour?

Schools using similar systems report calmer classrooms, improved focus, fewer phone-related incidents, and stronger relationships between students and staff.

Is there a cost to parents/carers?

No. The academy is providing each student x1 phone pouch for free, expected to last throughout the students’ whole time at the academy. The pouch remains the property of the academy.

What happens if a pouch is lost or damaged?

The cost of replacement is £25 per pouch. This price is set deliberately high to deter losing or being neglectful with the pouches.

My child does not have a phone or will not bring it to school?

From our experience at the academy, there are very few cases of students who do not have a phone in the academy. However, if this is the case, parents and carers will write to us to that effect and this will be noted.

The student will not need a pouch. All students will be subject to spot checks to ensure compliance whether they have a pouch or not.

What happens if they are caught with a phone on site by trying to circumnavigate the pouch?

The current policy escalates in sanctions as it can be relatively easy for a student to take their phone out to check the time, for example. With this system, a student will have to go out of their way to not use the pouch and to avoid detection therefore, the sanction will be reflective.

When do they lock/unlock the pouch?

Similar to the current practice, students will lock their phones before crossing the school threshold. They will show the pouch to the member of staff as they enter and then place it in their bags. Numerous unlock stations will be available at both Heenan and Palmer exits which require a brief tap of the pouch to unlock.

How can parents raise questions or concerns?

If your question is not covered here, or you would like to provide feedback, please use the Google Form link here: <https://forms.gle/KbkMwUBZtPxsAjNM7>