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July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We wanted to write to explain our 'phone-free' plans in more detail, ahead of the 'soft launch' on Tuesday, 7th July.

Many thanks to all parents/carers who came to the forum on our 'phone-free' plans, and to all parents/carers who responded to the consultation.

Why are we introducing mobile phone pouches?

There is a huge amount of research that highlights the benefits of students being phone-free during the school day. Our current policy is 'never seen, used or heard', and although we have been pleased with how this has gone over the last two years, we do know that some students check their phones during the school day. Therefore, the benefits of being phone-free are not fully felt. When students are phone-free, they have improved concentration and focus, as well as improved relationships with their peers. Additionally, government guidance on mobile phones changed in April 2026, and schools have to ensure that students are not able to use their phone during the school day.

How pouches will work

Students will be given their pouches on Monday 6th July, and they will be used for the first time on Tuesday 7th July. We have sourced funding from 'Phone-Free Cheshire' and are therefore able to provide each student with a pouch. Each pouch is numbered, so if a student misplaces their pouch, we will be able to identify which student it belongs to.

On arrival at school, students will put their phone in their pouch, along with their smart watch if they wear one. A member of staff on the year group door will lock it. The pouch will then remain in their school bag for the day. If a student arrives late, the pouch will be locked at reception.

At the end of the school day, students will be able to unlock their pouch by tapping it against one of the unlocking magnets located outside each school exit. Once unlocked, they can remove their phone from the pouch. If a student has to leave early, reception staff can unlock the pouch.

What happens if my child loses their pouch?

Parents/carers will need to order a new one using the link below. This will be delivered straight to your home address and the cost of a new pouch is £8.95. While students are waiting for their new pouch, they will be required to hand their phone in on arrival.

<https://store.schoolphonepouch.co.uk/sjbf>

Students may also choose not to bring their mobile phones to school; school staff will complete a check on arrival to ensure they are phone-free.

What happens if I need to contact my child?

If you need to contact your child during the day, please ring school directly and we will support as required. If students request that we contact home, they will be able to speak to a member of staff, as is the current practice, and a call will be made.

What are our behaviour expectations?

We have been impressed with how students have responded to this change and are confident they will make this transition well. We have talked to students about why this change is happening for all students and the benefits they will gain. We have also discussed how the majority of local schools now have pouches.

We have also talked to students about how serious it would be if any student purposely damaged their pouch, or if any behaviour did not meet the phone-free expectations. This would result in a very serious consequence, as well as a loss of trust.

Many thanks again for your support whilst we introduce mobile phone pouches. We will communicate how this has gone before the summer break. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Kane



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