

4th February 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to inform you about an important update to our school's mobile phone policy, which will take effect following the half term break. From this date, we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a secure lockable phone pouch system.

In light of the UK Government's recently strengthened guidance and its clear expectation that all schools should become "mobile-phone-free environments by default," we are introducing mobile-phone pouches to ensure a consistent, safe and focused learning environment for all students. The Government has updated its national guidance to state that pupils should not have access to their phones at any point during the school day—including lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes—and Ofsted will now inspect schools on how effectively these policies are applied. Introducing secure pouches now places our school ahead of anticipated national requirements and helps us provide a calmer, more focused environment that supports learning, wellbeing and safeguarding for every child.

Mobile phone pouch systems have been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate a focused and safer learning environment. Academy leaders have visited a number of schools where this system is implemented successfully and have found that learning, safeguarding and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The system utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned secure 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 phone pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

This is a significant change, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing this policy at home and discussing its benefits with your child. Together, we can create an environment that prioritises learning, wellbeing, and positive social interaction. We understand that mobile phones are important for safety and communication outside school hours. This policy ensures that students can still bring their phones to school but keeps them secure and inaccessible during learning time. As always, if there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please contact reception on 0161 230 8039.

If your child refuses to follow school policy or is seen to be deliberately damaging their pouch, sanctions will be applied and a replacement pouch will be expected to be purchased by parents at a charge of £8.50

Any student failing to comply with the daily practices around placing mobile phones into pouches will be placed into our Reset Room. Persistent defiance will lead to increased sanctions.

A recent survey of over 900 schools measured the effects of creating phone-free educational 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 behaviour
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- 86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness

We will be holding an optional face-to-face event at the academy for parents and carers only to discuss the policy in more detail and answer any questions you might have on **Monday 9th February 2026 at 2pm in Beswick Library**. If you do have any questions in advance of this, please complete the following online form by accessing this website via the link or QR code code: tinyurl.com/bddybwt and we will include them in the session.



In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Secure Lockable Phone Pouch Program at our school.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Birrell
Deputy Headteacher



Holly Koval
Assistant Headteacher