

## **Mobile Phone Pouch Trial – Parent Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What happens if a student deliberately damages their pouch?**

If a student deliberately damages their pouch making it unusable, a small replacement charge of approximately £6/£8 will be incurred by the parent or carer. This incident would be reported to the relevant Progress Leader or Assistant Progress Leader.

### **What happens if a student is seen with their phone out during the school day?**

If a student is seen using their phone, the phone will be confiscated immediately. Parents will be contacted, and the phone must be collected from reception. The student will also receive an internal suspension for the remainder of that day and/or the following day, including social time.

### **How will students access their timetables if they usually use their phone?**

All students will be provided with a laminated timetable. Timetables will also be displayed on noticeboards around the school and available in year bases and the Hatch.

### **What happens if a student arrives at school without their pouch?**

If this happens during tutor time, the tutor will hand the phone to Student Services. If this is identified at the school gates, a member of SLT will take the phone and pass it to Student Services. The phone can be returned at the end of the school day without the need for parent collection.

### **What happens if a student places something else in the pouch instead of their phone?**

This will be treated as a significant breach of expectations. Parents will be contacted and the student will receive an internal suspension for the remainder of the day and/or the following day, including social time.

### **What happens if a student refuses to place their phone into the pouch?**

If a student refuses to place their phone into the pouch, they will be internally suspended until they comply with this expectation.

### **When will checks take place to ensure pouches are locked with phones inside?**

There will be morning spot checks at the school gates, followed by further checks during tutor time.

### **Where will spare pouches be kept?**

Spare pouches will be stored in student services where they can be purchased.

### **How will the success of the Year 7 trial be evaluated?**

The school will evaluate the success of the trial by triangulating student voice, staff feedback and parental feedback.

### **Will staff be encouraged to make less use of their phones around students?**

Staff are encouraged to be mindful of phone use in the presence of students, as staff model behaviour expectations. Staff use phones for professional communication and not social media, and are expected to remain present and engaged when supervising students.

### **Will end-of-day procedures be reviewed?**

Yes, end-of-day procedures will be reviewed to ensure the system is working effectively. The school will remain flexible and make adjustments where needed.

### **Will there be large queues at the end of the school day to unlock pouches?**

Between 20 and 25 magnets will be fitted near the back of the Maths block and behind Music and Science. These will be spread out to allow students to unlock their pouches without crowding and to leave site safely and on time.

### **What happens if a student forgets to open their pouch at the end of the day?**

The school remains open until approximately 9pm on weekdays and for shorter periods at weekends. Parents can bring students back to open the pouch if necessary, although this rarely happens.

### **What about students leaving school for appointments during the day?**

A magnet will be available in reception so that students leaving for appointments can open their pouch as they exit the building.

### **Are there known ways students attempt to bypass the system?**

As with any system, some students may attempt to bypass it. If a pouch is deliberately damaged or a student is found doing so, normal sanctions will be applied.

### **What if a subject requires phone access for coursework?**

During the Year 7 trial, it is expected that phones will not be required. In exceptional circumstances on a wider roll out, such as photography for coursework, departments will be issued with a handheld magnet to unlock the phone temporarily under staff supervision.

### **What if I need to contact my child during the day?**

In case of an emergency, you can contact main reception and we can get a message to your child. Below is a list of examples of what we would consider an emergency:

- My child has an emergency appointment, can I please collect them, can you let them know
- I do not want my child to attend afterschool club, can you please tell them to go straight home after school
- I cannot collect my child after school, can you ask them to take the bus home
- I am running late collecting my child, can you please let them know to wait in Reception
- My child's other relative will be collecting them tonight, can you please let them know
- My child has had a difficult morning, can someone check on them and let me know
- My child has lost an item of uniform which is being replaced, can you please inform someone so they don't get into trouble.
- My child is unwell/ has an injury so cannot take part in PE
- My child has forgotten cooking ingredients. If I drop them off can they please be handed to them