

30 January 2026

Dear Parent and Carers,

Re: Phone Locker Feedback

Thank you to the 63 parents and carers who have taken the time to share feedback regarding the introduction of Phone Locker Pouches. The significant majority of which were supportive of the initiative, with a small number of practical questions raised. We welcome this engagement and address those points in full below.

Our intention with this initiative is to strengthen pupils' focus on learning, support wellbeing, and ensure a consistent and safe approach to mobile phones during the school day. This should not be seen as a punishment for those pupils already complying with our policy but a way to help safeguard them from those that are not and improve the overall environment.

Cost and payment

The cost of a **Phone Locker Pouch** is **£11**. This is a one-off payment which will be available for you to purchase from **Monday 02 February**, via ParentPay. The cost covers the pouch and locking mechanism. ~~If the cost is a barrier to purchasing a pouch, please contact the school directly.~~ Please also note that the replacement cost for a lost or damaged pouch is £11.

Option to Bring a Mobile Phone into School

We want pupils to retain the option of bringing their mobile phone onto the school site, for example for use before and after school when travelling. However, this option is conditional on the purchase and correct use of a Phone Pouch.

- Pupils **who have purchased a pouch** may bring a phone onto site, provided it is secured in the pouch throughout the school day.
- Pupils who do not purchase a pouch **must not bring a mobile phone** onto the school site under any circumstances.

Expectations and Sanctions

This approach relies on clear boundaries and consistent enforcement. Pouches will be checked upon arrival and spot checked throughout the day.

- Any pupil found attempting to open, tamper with, or misuse a pouch during the school day, or
- Any pupil found bringing a mobile phone onto the school site without a pouch, will receive a significant sanction, in line with the school's behaviour policy. These sanctions will be more serious than those previously applied for mobile phone misuse, reflecting the clarity of expectations and the importance of this initiative. Repeated breaches will be escalated accordingly.



End of Day Dismissal and Unlocking

While parents were overwhelmingly supportive, a common concern raised related to whether unlocking pouches might delay pupils leaving site at the end of the school day.

We would like to reassure families that **dismissal arrangements have been carefully planned**. Pouches will be unlocked quickly and efficiently, with multiple unlocking points in operation. Schools of similar size to St Martin's have been running this system without delay on exit and I have no concerns that a pupil will be delayed due to the tap and unlock system for the pouches. Pupils will have access to their phones immediately upon leaving school.

Forgetting a Pouch

We recognise that pupils may occasionally forget their pouch, particularly during the initial transition period. Clear procedures will be in place to manage this and a small number of pouches will be loaned for the day. If they are not available, a pupil will have to place their mobile phone into a safe and collect this at the end of the day. However, **repeated incidents will be treated as a behaviour concern** and addressed in line with school expectations.

Medical or Exceptional Circumstances

Where pupils require access to a mobile phone during the school day for medical reasons, we will contact the families individually. This is only where phone access is essential, such as diabetes monitoring.

Access for Extracurricular activities or out of hours

Key staff will have mobile unlocking stations. This will include the school nurse, reception, PE and performing arts, the Year teams and safeguarding. They will be able to unlock the pouches at any time during the day, and the PE team would do so for fixtures, for example. Pupils staying for clubs after school that may not be in PE, will be able to use any of the unlock station in North and South exits. Although unlikely, if a pupil forgets to unlock their phone after school, an unlock station will be accessible for them to return later.

Final Reassurance

This initiative has been introduced with careful consideration and reflects best practice in supporting pupils' learning, wellbeing, and safeguarding. With clear expectations and the support of families, we are confident it will have a positive impact on the school day for all pupils.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jamie Foster
Headteacher and Deputy CEO