

9 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Phone Pouch initiative plus information video ([click here](#))

I am writing to provide further detail about the introduction of Phone Locker pouches at St Martin's School, and to explain clearly why we believe this is the right step for our school community.

From June, we will begin using Phone Locker pouches with pupils in Years 7 to 10. From September, this approach will apply to all pupils in Years 7 to 11. This phased introduction has been carefully planned to ensure pupils and staff are fully supported.

This initiative does not represent a change to our mobile phone policy. Phones are already expected not to be seen or heard during the school day. However, enforcing this consistently relies heavily on staff time and does not always prevent phone use during unstructured times such as break, lunch, or between lessons.

There is growing national and international concern about the impact of mobile phones and social media on young people's wellbeing, mental health, learning, and safeguarding. Governments, educators and health professionals are increasingly aligned in recognising the need to reduce distraction and social media pressure during the school day.

The Phone Locker pouch provides a simple physical barrier that removes temptation and creates a consistent, fair approach for all pupils. Phones are not confiscated. Pupils keep them with them throughout the day but cannot access them until they are unlocked at the end of the school day. This supports focus in lessons and helps safeguard pupils from online issues during school hours.

Staff will be able to unlock pouches if required, and pupils with medical needs, such as diabetes monitoring, will have appropriate alternative arrangements in place. Families where this applies will be contacted individually. If parents need to contact their child during the school day, existing systems via the school office and year teams remain unchanged.

We have visited schools where this system is already in place and spoken directly to leaders, staff and pupils. The feedback has been consistently positive, with reports of calmer social spaces, improved focus in lessons, and fewer phone-related safeguarding concerns.

To support this initiative, the school is subsidising the overall cost of the pouches and is requesting a one-off contribution of £12 per pupil. Each pouch is designed to last for the entirety of a pupil's time at the school. We appreciate that any additional



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust

cost is not insignificant, but we believe this represents a worthwhile investment in learning, wellbeing and safeguarding.

An FAQ document is attached, with a Microsoft Form link at the bottom, which is available should you wish to raise a question or concern not covered. We will review all submissions and provide a follow-up communication outlining next steps.

Thank you for your continued support. Since becoming Headteacher, improvements to uniform standards, punctuality, and pride in books and equipment have had a clear positive impact, and this has only been possible with your backing. I am confident that this next step will further strengthen the calm, focused and safe environment we want for all our pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr Foster
Headteacher & Deputy CEO