

## Phone Locker Pouches – Parent FAQ

### **Why is the school introducing Phone Locker pouches?**

This change strengthens our existing mobile phone policy. While phones are already not permitted to be seen or heard, the pouch provides a physical barrier that removes temptation, improves focus, and supports safeguarding during the school day.

### **Is this a ban on mobile phones?**

No. Phones are not confiscated or removed. Pupils keep their phones with them at all times, but they cannot access them during the school day.

### **Why is this happening now?**

There is increasing national and international concern about the impact of mobile phones and social media on young people. Governments, educators and health professionals are actively reviewing how best to protect learning, wellbeing and safeguarding.

### **Does the school already have a phone policy?**

Yes. Our current policy is effective and behaviour is strong. However, we are not naïve – phones are still accessed at unstructured times. The pouch helps ensure consistent expectations for all pupils.

### **What about emergencies?**

Staff can unlock pouches immediately if required. Phones remain with pupils at all times.

### **What about medical needs?**

Pupils who require access to a device for medical reasons (for example, diabetes monitoring) will have an alternative pouch or exemption. Families will be contacted individually.

### **How does this improve wellbeing?**

Reducing access to phones during the day limits social media pressure, anxiety from notifications, and online conflict, helping pupils to be more present and engaged.

### **Will this improve learning and behaviour?**

Schools using similar systems report calmer classrooms, improved focus, fewer phone-related incidents, and stronger relationships between pupils and staff.

### **Is there a cost to parents?**

There is a one-off contribution of £11 for each pupil's pouch. The school is subsidising the remainder of the cost, and the pouch is designed to last throughout a pupil's school career.

**What happens if a pouch is lost or damaged?**

The pouch will be owned by the pupil and therefore, liable for the cost of replacement as with other personal items.

**My child is in Year 10 and only has one year left but paying the same?**

For Year 10 pupils moving to Year 11 we are looking into options to further subsidise this cost. This may be through a reduction in the school prom, for example, in a 'buy back' scheme.

**We have more than one child at the school and the cost is prohibitive?**

We look to support families wherever possible. If cost does prove to be a barrier, please contact the year team. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

**My child does not have a phone or will not bring it to school?**

From our experience at school, there are very few cases of pupils who do not have a phone in school. However, if this is the case, parents and carers will write to us to that affect and this will be noted. The pupil will not need a pouch. All pupils will be subject to spot checks to ensure compliance whether they have a pouch or not.

**What happens if they are caught with a phone on site by trying to circumnavigate the pouch?**

The current policy escalates in sanctions as it can be relatively easy for a pupil to take their phone out to check the time, for example. With this system, a pupil will have to go out of their way to not use the pouch and to avoid detection therefore, the sanction will be reflective.

**When do they lock/unlock the pouch?**

Similar to the current practice, pupils will lock their phones before crossing the school threshold. They will show the pouch to the member of staff as they enter and then place it in their bags. Numerous unlock stations will be available at both North and South exits which require a brief tap of the pouch to unlock.

**How can parents raise questions or concerns?**

A FAQ has been provided and a Microsoft Form is available for additional questions. The school will respond with further guidance and next steps.

**If your question is not covered here, or you would like to provide feedback, please use the Microsoft Forms link below:**

[St Martin's School - Phone locker pouches initiative – Fill in form](#)