

Dear Parents

We are writing to inform you that we are investigating the introduction of mobile phone wallets within school. These are secure wallets in which students would store their phones, meaning they would be unable to access phones during the school day.

Although mobile phones are currently not allowed to be used in school, many students are unable to manage having phones on them without accessing them. The Government has acknowledged the serious impact of phones on education and young people's mental wellbeing and have stated that phones will be banned in ALL schools.

There are numerous benefits to not using mobile phones during the school day which include:

- Improved focus on lessons without distractions
- Reducing the opportunity for online bullying
- Stopping pupils using them to meet up out of lessons
- Improved mental health
- Improved communication and social skills
- Improved safeguarding

If you would like to see how the phone wallets look in action, please refer to this recent news article that was in the news – [YONDR BBC.mp4](#). Additionally, you can read some of the benefits that schools have had since implementing the scheme here – [News article Phone Free School](#)

We appreciate that some children are addicted to their devices and so we are informing you now so that you can prepare your child for the potential introduction of mobile phone wallets.

How mobile phone wallets work:

- Pupils will be given a neoprene wallet that is lockable and protects the phone.
- On arrival to school, students will place their phone in their wallet and close it, which will lock for the day.
- Students will keep their phone on them for the day.
- Unlocking stations will be made available when school finishes.

FAQ:

How can I contact my child?

Parents can email in for non-urgent matters and we have reception team who can take calls. We have a large pastoral team who can also take calls. Students will be able to access any text messages as soon as their phones are unlocked at the end of the day. You can also contact the school via the Sims app to send direct instant messages.

Will you take my child's phone?

No, your child will keep the locked pouch in their bag or blazer.

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Headteacher: Mrs Samantha Barnes



What if my child loses their pouch?

Parents will be responsible for replacement costs. Any child without their pouch will have their phone placed in the school safe in reception.

What about educational use in some lessons?

For subjects, such as Photography, where KS4 students need phones to complete assessed work, there will be an unlocking station made available. All other quiz based programs will not be included in lessons unless using computers or laptops. Although such quizzes have educational benefits, we firmly believe the benefit of not accessing phones far outweighs the disadvantage of not accessing educational apps during lessons.

What if my child refuses to put their phone in their wallet?

This would be a breach of our code of conduct which would trigger serious sanctions.

Finally, as a school we are not anti-phone, but we are very much pro-appropriate phone management to help children develop and learn in the best way possible and this is why we are investigating such an initiative.

Yours faithfully

Regents Park Community College

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