



Friday 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent months, we have been reviewing the impact that mobile phones and social media are having on students during the school day. As part of this review, we asked parents and carers to complete a survey to help inform our thinking.

The survey provided some very clear messages, which have helped guide our decision:

- **76% of parents agreed or strongly agreed** that mobile phones can negatively affect students' focus and learning.
- **85% of parents agreed or strongly agreed** that phones can be a source of distraction during the school day.
- **92% of parents agreed or strongly agreed** that mobile phones can contribute to social pressures and issues between students.
- **Nearly 90% of parents agreed** that reducing phone use during the school day would benefit students.
- **95% of parents agreed or strongly agreed** that schools should take steps to support healthier phone habits.

These findings reflect a national picture. Mobile phones can create distractions in lessons and increase social media pressures during the school day. Our priority is to create an environment where students can focus on learning, build positive relationships, and feel safe during the school day.

Introducing Mobile Phone Pouches

Following this consultation and further discussion with staff and trustees, Cox Green School will be introducing secure mobile phone pouches for students in Years 7-11 (does not apply to current Year 11 students).

Students will still be able to bring their phone to school, but before they enter the school site, the phone will be placed in a locked pouch, which remains with them during the school day. The pouch will then be unlocked at the end of the day, as students leave the site.

This system is already used successfully in many schools and helps remove the distraction of phones while still allowing students to have their device for travel before and after school.

Voluntary Contribution

To support the introduction of this system, the school will provide a phone pouch for every student currently in Years 7–10.

We are asking parents and carers to make a voluntary contribution of £10 to help cover part of the cost of purchasing their child's pouch. This contribution is voluntary, and no student will be disadvantaged if a contribution is not made.

You can make the contribution via your child's iPay account, or by card payment at the school reception.

Students with specific medical conditions requiring access to a phone will be issued with a special medical pouch free of charge.

If, in the future, pouches are lost or damaged then a replacement will need to be purchased at the full cost price of £15.

Implementation Timeline

To ensure the introduction is clear and supportive for students and families, we will roll this out in stages and produce an online presentation to parents on the process and frequently asked questions.

In the week beginning 20th April, there will be assemblies for students explaining the system and expectations before the full launch after the May half term holiday. As this introduction happens during the GCSE exam period, it will not apply to Year 11 students coming to their exams.

Our Aim

This change is not about removing technology from students' lives. Instead, it is about protecting learning time, reducing social media pressures during the school day, and supporting students to develop interpersonal and healthy digital habits.

We are grateful to parents for their support and feedback through the survey, which has been invaluable in helping us take this next step for the benefit of our students.

If you have any questions, please look out for the online presentation on **20th March**, which will explain the system fully and address common queries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Edwards
Headteacher
Cox Green School