

26 January 2026

Dear Parents

Lockable Phone Pouches

Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey regarding the implementation of lockable phone pouches at Knole Academy.

We had 216 respondents with 77% supporting the introduction; 16% were against it, with the remainder neutral.

I have used AI to summarise responses to avoid any potential bias.

- The majority of respondents answered 'Yes' to both the positive impact on student focus/wellbeing and support for implementing lockable phone cases, with 'Strongly support' being the most frequent sentiment.
- The most common themes in open-ended feedback relate to concerns about logistics (unlocking process, risk of missing transport, emergency access), the need for clear policy communication, and the impact on students' wellbeing and safety.
- While support is high, a notable minority expressed opposition or concerns, particularly regarding practicality, potential stress for students, and the effectiveness of the policy compared to existing rules

In addition, as many parents will know the topic of mobile phones for those under the age of 16 is a hot political item at present. This morning, Monday 26 January, Headteachers received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, an extract of which is below.

"I have always been clear that mobile phones have no place in schools - I know many of you feel the same. But it is clear that the previous guidance did not deliver the clarity or consistency that schools need, or help enough in setting out for parents that this is a clear national position. That is why we have strengthened it to be explicit - all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. That includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime..."

This guidance is intended to remove ambiguity and support firm, confident leadership. Schools should not only have clear policies, but should make sure those policies are applied consistently across classes and at all times, and we want parents to back these policies too. This is a clear national reset on mobile phone use in schools."

With the clear preference of parents, staff, and the likelihood that in the very near future some form of statutory guidance will be introduced, I can confirm that Knole Academy will be moving to lockable phone pouches.

The intention is to introduce these to the existing Year 7-10 in June/July, with the new intake of Year 7 having them as soon as they start in September. Sixth Form students are exempt from this.

We will be making other changes to mitigate against some of the issues that having phones may bring and we will provide clearer guidance in due course.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Yours faithfully



David Collins