



30th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my second letter in May outlining our intentions regarding mobile phone use in school in light of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, I am writing to provide a final update on the progress we are making to ensure our approach is clear, consistent, and fair for all members of our community.

We have developed our Mobile Phone Guidance in collaboration with the Academy Council, with clear reference to daily routines, operational procedures, and the sanctions that apply in cases of misuse. Our aim is to ensure that our expectations align fully with new Government requirements, with procedures that are clearly defined and applied consistently. Specifically, we have:

- Worked with local schools that have recently implemented the same system to ensure consistency in our approach to procedures and expectations.
- Collaborated across our Trust schools where this system is already in place to risk assess this implementation thoroughly.
- Finalised our FAQs to provide clear, practical guidance for parents, students, and staff within a single, accessible resource (Included in this letter)
- Continued to gather stakeholder voice, including feedback from students, parents, and staff, to ensure that this change has been implemented carefully, thoughtfully, and effectively.
- Briefed students on the practicalities of this new system and expectations. My student presentation is attached to this mailing for your reference

What happens next

Phone pouches will be issued to each student during the last few weeks of term, which will provide students (and staff) the opportunity to learn how the system works practically, and allow it to become part of their normal routine ahead of the official start in September.

Our incoming Year 6 students will also see the policy in action when they visit us for their transition days, helping to ensure a smooth and consistent start for all in the new academic year.

We remain committed to supporting a positive and focused learning environment, and we appreciate your continued support as we implement these changes. Further updates will be shared as we move towards full implementation in September.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Farmer

Principal



How huSH works...



When entering the school premises, students slide their phone into the huSH pouch.



Once pushed into the pouch, simply engage the locking pin.



When exiting the premises, click pouch open at a huSH unlocking station.

About the Pouches

Do students buy the pouch?

The Hush pouch belongs to the school and is loaned to you for use during your time at Stratton School. If you purposefully damage the case, lose it or graffiti it, you will be required to pay for a new one at a cost of £15.

When are pouches needed

Between the hours of 8:40 and 3:10, Monday – Friday

What if my child loses their pouch?

Replacement pouches cost **£15** and can be ordered through the MCAS app. Financial support is available for students receiving Pupil Premium. The lost pouch will be added to the MCAS account and you will be informed in writing as well. Students will be issued a replacement pouch immediately to ensure the system continues to operate as intended

Is the school responsible if a device is damaged inside the pouch?

No. Pouches are padded and protect phones during normal school use. Students remain responsible for their devices. It is recommended that the phone is powered off when in the pouch, to conserve battery health.

Can the pouch be used at home?

Yes, if parents want to lock phones away for any reason at home, but please remember, it cannot be unlocked until students return to school.

What if the pouch gets wet?

It is water-repellent and fine with spills, but not fully waterproof—so some care is still needed.

Using the Pouches

How does the system work at the start of the day?

Students unlock their pouch at the front of school, place their phone inside, and lock it before entering the site.

What happens at the end of the day?

Unlocking stations are located:

- At the front of school
- In the playground
- By the community door/ PE exit
- Music Centre
- Main Office

Will my child miss their bus?

No. Other schools using pouches report no issues. We will have multiple unlocking stations to keep queues moving.

What if my child forgets to unlock their pouch?

The site is open until 4pm. They can return to unlock it, or wait until the next day. We have been told from other schools that this rarely happens!

What if my child doesn't bring a phone to school?

They will still be issued a pouch, which should remain in their school bag.

What if my child forgets their pouch?

If students forget their pouch they will be provided a loan pouch for the day. They can collect this from their house hub. Repeated occurrences will carry a **remind** which could lead to a detention.

Arriving Late / Leaving School

What if my child arrives late due to an appointment?

Reception has an unlocking station so students can secure their phone when they sign in.

What if my child needs to leave school during the day?

Reception will unlock the pouch before they leave.

Medical Needs

What if my child needs their phone for a medical condition (e.g., diabetes)?

Students with a verified medical need requiring a smart device to monitor health (for example blood sugar, heart rate output) will receive a **Velcro medical pouch** which will also have a green medical symbol printed on the pouch. Use will be permitted for medical needs, but evidence will be required from a medical professional.

Communication During the School Day

How can I contact my child?

Your child's **SSA** is the first point of contact. If unavailable, reception will pass a message to the House Team. Parents are reminded that direct phone contact during the school day to a student device is not (has never been) part of the school policy.

How will my child contact me in an emergency?

As they do currently - Students can visit their House Office Hub or Main Reception. These are open throughout the day, including breaks and lunch.

Rules and Consequences

What happens if a mobile phone is seen outside the pouch?

If a mobile phone is confiscated, it will be held in school for **three full school days**. For example, a phone confiscated on a Friday will be returned to the student on Wednesday at 3:10pm. This approach is in line with other schools within our Trust. While some schools locally and nationally apply longer or more severe sanctions, we believe this is a proportionate and appropriate response. Parents will be informed whenever a confiscation occurs.

Our intention is not to focus on the sanction itself, but rather on the important benefits of reducing access to phones and screen time during the school day, allowing students to remain fully engaged in their learning over a sustained period.

What if a child brings two phones?

There is no reason for this. Any phone seen will be confiscated.

Do schools have the right to confiscate phones?

Yes. This is supported by Department for Education guidance on *Searching, Screening and Confiscation*.

[Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)

Checks and Safeguarding

Will staff check what is in the pouches?

Yes. Spot checks will be carried out by trained staff, in line with national guidance. [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)

If a phone is found, we will apply the consequences for failing to adhere to the policy as noted above. Any further non-compliance will be escalated in line with our Conduct Policy.

Clubs, Activities & Daily Life

What if my child attends an after-school club at Stratton School?

They will unlock their pouch after the club ends.

What if my child attends an after-school away fixture?

They will unlock their pouch as they leave school on their way to the fixture. This is to ensure students can contact families when they are on their way back/ coordinate collection.

What if my child attends a school trip and will be back before the end of the school day

They will unlock their pouch after the trip ends, with everyone else at 3:10

What if my child attends a school trip and will be back after the end of the school day

This will be assessed on a case by case basis. We do agree that phones are a necessity to support risk assessments for students on trips such as Thorpe Park, where communication with the school trip lead, via the trip phone is needed. A phone usage statement will be included in all trip correspondence.

Will staff help students who struggle with coordination?

Yes. Staff are always on duty at the start and end of the day to support students.

What if a student arrives without their pouch?

They will collect a temporary pouch from their House Office. This will be treated like forgetting PE kit or homework.

 How We Will Measure Success

We will monitor:

- Reduced phone confiscations
- Improved focus and engagement in lessons
- Student and staff survey feedback
- Day-to-day observations of behaviour and social interactions