

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this year, I sent out a mobile phone survey to capture parent/carer's voice on our current mobile phone policy. The results of this survey contributed towards our review of the policy which has led to a change in approach to mobile phone use at Oaklands Catholic School. This will take effect from September 2026.

As you will be aware, the use of mobile phones in schools has become a significant national issue. The Government has been clear on its expectations that schools take decisive action to limit distraction, support student wellbeing, and promote a more focused learning environment. In line with this guidance, many schools within the Havant Federation have already successfully implemented systems to create a phone free environment during the school day.

After careful consideration, we will be introducing a mobile phone pouch system for students in Years 7-11 and at the start of the academic year, we will issue all students with one of these pouches. The pouch will be added to the Governors' School Uniform Policy, meaning that all students must have one.

The initial cost of the pouches is being covered by the school, but if a student loses or damages their pouch, the cost of a replacement will need to be covered by parents/carers; this will be £12 and available to pay via Scopay.

This approach is designed to ensure that students are free from the distractions of their phones throughout the school day, while still enabling them to have access to their devices before and after school. The pouch that we have chosen will also block the signal to other linked devices that students may bring into school with them.

How the system will work

- On arrival to school, students will need to unlock their pouch at designated stations on the school drive in order to be able to place their phone in the pouch at muster.
- During morning muster, under the supervision of their tutor, students will place their mobile phone into the pouch and secure it.
- Students will keep the pouch with them at all times during the school day.
- At the end of the day, students will be able to unlock their pouches at designated stations along the school drive before leaving the site.



Community Unity Opportunity



This system ensures that phones are safe, secure, and out of use during the school day, while still being in the students' possession.

Expectations and consequences

Students will be expected to follow this process every day. If a student is found with a mobile phone outside of the pouch during the school day, there will be the following consequences:

- The phone will be confiscated and placed in the school safe.
- The phone will need to be collected by a parent or carer. If the student needs their phone for the bus, we will lend them the money to get the bus home but we will not return the phone to the student.
- The student will spend the remainder of the day in our Inclusions Room.

We will apply these expectations consistently to ensure fairness and maintain a calm, purposeful environment for all.

Why we are making this change

Our decision is rooted in what we believe is best for our students. Research and experience across schools show that having a phone free school day has clear benefits for:

- Mental health and wellbeing, particularly through reduced anxiety and social pressure
- Focus and academic engagement in lessons
- Social interaction and relationship-building during breaks and lunchtimes

We want our students to be fully present in their learning and to enjoy meaningful, face-to-face connections with their peers.

We recognise that this is a significant change, and we are committed to implementing it in a supportive and measured way. Further information will be shared closer to September, including guidance for students to help them prepare.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the very best environment for your children to thrive.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Bonnington
Head of School