

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214
🌐 www.oaklandscatholicschool.org
@ oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



Executive Headteacher: Richard Cunningham BA (Jt Hons), PGCE (Cantab), MSc, CMgr, FCMI, NPQEL
Head of School: Amy Bonnington BA (Hons), PGCE, MA

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Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter on 18 June, regarding the introduction of mobile phone pouches (available via this link: [Head-of-School-Letter-Mobile-Phone-Pouches-18.6.26.pdf](#)), I am now able to provide some more information in the form of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

Why implement this now – can't current policies just be enforced?

Traditional policies are often difficult to apply consistently. The pouch system ensures fair enforcement across the school and removes temptation entirely. We've seen excellent results in schools where this has been introduced.

What if a child forgets their pouch?

Students will hand their phone into the Inclusions Room where it will be kept in a safe until the end of the school day.

What happens if my child loses or damages their pouch?

If a pouch is damaged or lost, a replacement will be issued, and parents/carers will be charged.

Should we put our child's name on the pouch?

Pouches may be named if you wish to do so; as pouches should remain in students' bags for the whole day, we would not expect them to get lost.

Will my child keep the same pouch throughout their time at Oaklands?

Yes, the pouches are designed to last if they are looked after properly.

At the end of Year 11, or sooner if a student leaves, we would encourage you to donate the pouch to the Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association for their nearly new uniform stock.

How will my child be able to check their timetable?

We will continue to provide all students with paper copies of their timetable, so there will be no need to do this on their phones.

What about paying for food and drinks in the Canteen?

As previously communicated, only fobs or bank cards may be used to pay for goods from the Canteen.

What about phones used in subjects like Art, Media or Design & Technology?

If needed for learning, staff can temporarily unlock pouches and relock them afterwards. PCs and laptops are also available in all departments.

What if a child tries to cheat the system (e.g. uses a second phone)?

Students attempting to bypass the policy will receive an Internal Exclusion. Repeated breaches will result in increased sanctions.

Does this only apply to smartphones?

No, the policy applies to all mobile devices, regardless of make or model.

Will my child still be able to use their smartwatch?

No, the pouch has a signal blocker for any other devices linked to the phone.

When will my child's pouch be unlocked?

Pouches will be unlocked when students leave at the end of the day (3.25pm for KS3 and 3.30pm for KS4). It is an incredibly quick process so learning time will not be lost. Students should unlock their pouch at a fixed unlocking location and then continue moving before taking their phone out of the pouch. Some end of day supervisors will also have handheld detachers to assist.

Are there enough unlocking locations?

Yes, the external company providing the pouches carried out an extensive site survey to ensure we will have sufficient unlocking stations in the right places.

What if my child forgets to unlock their pouch?

Reception has an unlocking device and will assist if needed.

Will this delay students getting to school buses?

No. The unlocking process is swift and won't cause delays. Local bus services are being informed as a precaution.

Who holds the unlocking devices?

Key staff will have access to unlocking devices.

I hope that this has answered any questions parents/carers have had. We will of course continue to keep both you and students up to date with any new information.

Your sincerely



Mrs A Bonnington
Head of School