



**Ormiston
Sudbury
Academy**

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Our ref: SMO/NIN

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Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you are already aware, it is our ambition to be a mobile 'phone free school. All the schools in the Ormiston family are banning, or already have banned, 'phone use in school. **Students who need to have their phones to monitor medical conditions are, of course, exempt.**

During the 2024/25 academic year, the year 7 students handed their phones in each morning and collected them from a central point each afternoon. This has worked well for one year group but is not scalable. For this reason, we are adopting a new system.

From the start of 2025/26, year 7 and 8 students will be given a mobile 'phone 'pouch'. They will write their name on the pouch and place their phone within it and lock it. They will keep their pouch with them. Tutors will manage this process by checking that students load their phones into their pouches. The pouches block phone signals so there is no point in students wearing smart watches as the phones can't communicate with them.

The pouches can only be opened using an unlocking device. These will be positioned by the student exits, so that the students can unlock the pouch and release their phone as they leave at the end of the day. If a student needs to leave partway through the day for an appointment, they can have their pouch unlocked when they sign out at the attendance office or reception.

Each student will keep and take responsibility for their own pouch. I recommend that pouches are kept in school bags. If students forget to bring in the pouch but have their phone, the phone will be confiscated and will be locked away securely in an office. Students will then need to collect it at the end of the day, at the convenience of a member of staff. If this happens more than once, we may keep the phone until the following day or until it can be collected by a parent/carer.

Lost pouches will be billed for. They cost about £15.

Not all our students have mobile phones or bring their phones to school, I'm pleased to say. To ensure that this system is fair for all, catching all the phones, we will do occasional spot checks.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. We will be rolling out the pouch scheme to other year groups in the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Morris
Principal



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