



Friday 11 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phone Pouch Launch – 14th September

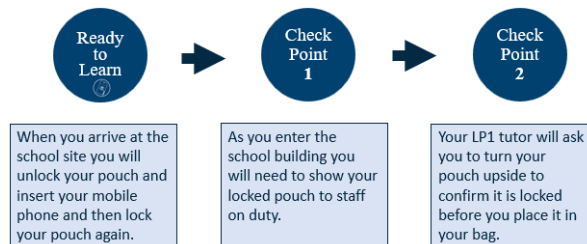
I am pleased to confirm the final arrangements for the launch of mobile phone pouches at The Victory Academy.

Assemblies have taken place this week to carefully explain the routines that will be in place for all students. Pouches will be issued to students during Learning Period 1 on Monday 14th September and students will be asked to place their phone inside and lock their pouch.

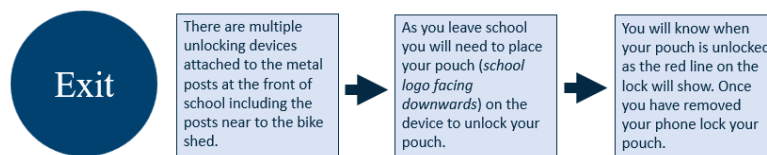
If you have made us aware your child does not have a mobile phone (so will not need a pouch), we have recorded this information on Arbor for staff to access and students will be given a 'No Mobile Phone Pass'. At the end of the day on Monday, to support students to be confident with the unlocking devices, we will have a staggered release of students as follows:

- Year 10-13 will be dismissed at 2.55pm
- Year 7-9 will be dismissed at 3.05pm

From Tuesday, the daily entry routine for students will be as follows:



Mobile phone pouches will remain locked throughout the school day including break and lunch times. The exit routine will be:



Key reminders

- All students will need to ensure they bring a copy of their printed timetable to school on a daily basis.
- All students will need a bag to place their pouch in during the day
- Students need to store their pouch safely each evening so they can easily locate it every day before school
- These arrangements will apply to Sixth Form students onsite at all times, except when they are in the Sixth Form Centre.
- If students arrive to school late following an appointment, they will need to ensure their phone is secured in their pouch before they enter the school site.
- If students leave school during the day for an appointment, they will unlock their pouch in the same way as described above



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Headteacher: Mr O Owen BSc (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



Replacement Pouch

The school will supply the **initial pouch** for all students. This will then become your child's personal pouch that they are responsible for. If it is lost or broken, parents will need to replace the pouch at a cost of £20.00 and the school will supply a replacement.

Behaviour Policy Updates

- **Any phone that is seen onsite, outside of a pouch during the school day (other than the area immediately adjacent to the unlocking devices once a pouch has been unlocked) will be confiscated for a period of two school weeks, with no opportunity for collection.** The school approach will also include opportunities for education.
- **If the two weeks ends during a school holiday, students will receive their phone back on return to school.**
- A student refusing to hand over their phone will be taken to the Internal Reflection Room whilst the school seeks the support of the parent/carer in the confiscation of the phone.
- There will be no option for the SIM card to be removed – it will be confiscated and kept with the phone.
- **If a student's phone is confiscated twice within a term, it will be returned at the end of the next term.**
- **If required for safety reasons, the student will be provided with a basic phone for their journey home by the school.**
- Any evidence of tampering with a pouch including (but not limited to) the examples listed below, will result in the requirement of a replacement pouch at a cost of £20.00:
 - Damage or major scuffs to the black ball or button
 - Cut/torn/ripped pouch
 - Bent/cut pin
 - Pouch opening without an unlocking station
- If a pouch is accidentally damaged, the student should notify the school immediately, explaining what happened. If any damage is spotted at a pouch check, it is likely to be considered intentional unless the student has reported it.
- Possession of, or bringing in a release device will lead to a suspension. Similarly, the use of a "decoy phone" will lead to a period in the Internal Reflection Room and the confiscation of the student's "real" phone.
- There may be occasions where a member of staff is required to conduct a random search of a student's personal belongings for a mobile phone or other banned item where this is deemed necessary to maintain high standards of behaviour and a safe environment. Any such search will be carried out in accordance with the Department for Education guidance on searching and screening alongside our own Behaviour Policy.

Communication & Safeguarding

- If you need to contact your child urgently during the day, please do so via the school office (office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk), message via Arbor or call 03 333 602 140). Messages will be passed on promptly.
- If a student needs to contact home, they can do this from Student Services (before or after school, at break or at lunch time).
- The school has established emergency procedures with which all staff are familiar. In such situations, it is essential that students follow staff instructions at all times. The presence of mobile phones can hinder effective communication and response.
- During school trips, the trip leader will use discretion regarding students needing access to their devices. A small number of hand-held unlocking devices will be made available.



I want to thank you in anticipation of your support with this initiative which will help us to continue ensuring a calm, safe and focused learning environment. If however, you still have any unanswered questions, we ask that you contact us outlining your concerns via email in the first instance.

Your sincerely

Mr O Owen
Headteacher