



5 March 2026

Dear ECC Parents and Carers (including Year 6 Parents, who we are delighted to welcome to the ECC family)

Over the past two months we have carried out a detailed consultation with parents, carers, students and staff regarding the proposal to introduce secure mobile phone pouches for all students in Years 7–11 from September 2026. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We received a high number of responses, representing a full range of viewpoints.

The proposal was supported by over 80% of parents and the vast majority of teaching staff. Understandably, students were more worried about the proposal, but we have been so impressed by the maturity that they have shown in their feedback.

After carefully reviewing all feedback, **we will be progressing with the introduction of mobile phone pouches** from the start of the 2026–27 academic year. This is in line with the new DfE guidance, published in January 2026.

Next Steps

Although the decision has been made to proceed, it is equally important to say that the details proposed in the consultation (mainly outlined in the FAQ document) are not final. The feedback from staff, parents / carers and students gives us a clear set of questions to ensure that we get the implementation right. We will be working directly with parents / carers and student groups on a number of the final details including, for example, the arrangements with those with particular medical needs (e.g. Type 1 Diabetes).

Between now and September 2026, we will:

- Run student workshops to help shape the final design of the system.
- Hold parent / carer information events to share the practical arrangements and listen to further feedback.
- Potentially (if the logistics allow), pilot key elements of the system on a small scale so that we can refine the logistics.
- Publish an updated policy guidance to include all foreseeable aspects and situations.

A Shared Aim

The purpose of the mobile phone pouch system is simple: to create the best possible learning, social and wellbeing environment for all students.

We are committed to implementing this in a way that is thoughtful, fair, inclusive and guided by evidence and community feedback.

Thank you once again for your engagement with this consultation. Your voices have shaped this process, and they will continue to do so.

If you have further questions or would like to be involved in the next stage of the planning, please do get in touch.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher