

16 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this term we wrote to let you know that we were reviewing KLB's mobile phone arrangements in light of updated statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our consultation. We received over 450 responses from parents and carers, including more than 100 from parents of children joining KLB in September, together with valuable feedback from staff. Alongside this, we have reviewed the latest statutory guidance, considered the available research, visited schools operating different approaches, spoken with headteachers who have adopted a range of models and met with providers of lockable phone pouch systems.

Having considered all this evidence, Trustees have approved the proposal of the introduction of a lockable phone pouch system for students in Years 7-11 from the start of Term 2, following the October half-term break.

Throughout the consultation, it was clear that all supported the DfE objective that mobile phones should not be accessed during the school day. While many parents supported retaining the current arrangements, others identified potential benefits of alternative operational models. There was no clear consensus on the preferred approach, reflecting the complexity of the issue.

The consultation also highlighted several practical considerations that are particularly important for KLB, including the large number of students who travel by bus, the increasing use of digital bus passes and the importance parents place on being able to contact and locate children before and after the school day.

Why are we introducing the change after half term?

The current policy, which will continue to operate during Term 1, is compliant with the DfE statutory guidance. We believe it is important to use Term 1 to ensure the new arrangements are implemented carefully and successfully.

During the first half of the autumn term we will:

- introduce the new arrangements to students through assemblies and tutor time, explaining clearly to students how the system will operate and what will be expected of them;
- invite parents and carers to attend a presentation in school and provide opportunities to raise any individual questions or concerns with the school;
- share detailed guidance about the use of pouches, and publish frequently asked questions with parents and carers;
- provide staff training;
- distribute and label pouches ready for implementation;

- consider the implications of the change on the way the school operates, with a particular emphasis on any changes required to the school day;
- finalise arrangements for students who use digital bus passes and ensure students can continue to board buses promptly at the end of the school day;
- confirm arrangements for sixth form students;
- confirm arrangements for educational visits, sporting fixtures, music activities and medical appointments;
- establish appropriate reasonable adjustments for students with medical needs or other exceptional circumstances where access to a phone may be required;
- complete procurement and continue exploring funding opportunities to minimise the cost to families wherever possible.

We appreciate that this represents a significant change for students and families. By introducing the system at the start of Term 2, we can ensure that everyone understands the arrangements fully and that the implementation is well planned and successful.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Hannah Khan
Headteacher