THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL
SERVE · PRAY · ACHIEVE · RESPECT

Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.

The Barlow RC High School
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Our ref: cwa/stah71
15th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

We are writing to inform you that The Barlow is planning the introduction of mobile phone pouches in school from September 2026. These are secure pouches in which pupils store their mobile phones, meaning they would be unable to access their mobile phone during the school day. The mobile phone pouches prevent any signal for the duration it remains in the pouch.

Although mobile phones have never been allowed to be used in our school, many pupils are unable to manage having their mobile phone on them without accessing it during the day. The Government has acknowledged the serious impact of phones on education and young people's mental wellbeing and have stated that phones must be banned in all schools moving forward. You may be aware that a neighbouring authority, Cheshire LA, have recently started to introduce these pouches into secondary schools, in light of the campaign led by Brianna Ghey's mother https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3xg9kznxeo.

There are numerous benefits to not using mobile phones during the school day which include:

- Improved focus on learning without distractions.
- Reducing the opportunity for online bullying.
- Reducing pupils requiring to go to the toilet during lesson time because of their need to check a mobile phone notification.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing.
- Improved communication and social skills.
- Improved safeguarding.

Put simply, in The Barlow community, 'let's disconnect so that we can reconnect'.

Finally, we know how important mobile phones are in young people's lives, but we want to develop and implement appropriate phone management to help children develop and learn in the best way possible and this is why we are planning this initiative. We will keep parents and carers updated with developments as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

Ms CM Wallace
Headteacher