



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

PCC DECISION REPORT - SECTION A - SUMMARY

Report for Decision

Report Reference Number:	PCC 2026 / 025
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Report Title: Phone Free Schools

Executive Summary:

The Community Fund (previously called the Police Property Act Fund) is created from the proceeds of sale of goods recovered by the police that cannot be returned to their original owner. In accordance with the Police Property Act Regulations (1997), all awards from the fund must be for charitable purposes.

Recognising the growing challenges associated with mobile phone use in schools, funding was made available through the Community Fund to support secondary schools across Thames Valley to implement effective phone free policies. These policies are designed to prevent students from accessing their mobile phones during the entire school day.

While mobile phones are an established part of everyday life, there is increasing evidence linking their use among young people to a range of safeguarding concerns, including online bullying and conflict, peer pressure, exposure to harmful content, and increased vulnerability to criminal and sexual exploitation. Mobile phone use can also contribute to classroom disruption, reduced concentration, poorer behaviour, and lower educational attainment.

Evidence from schools that have adopted a fully phone free approach demonstrates a range of benefits, including improved focus and engagement in lessons, better behaviour, increased social interaction between pupils, and a more positive learning environment. Simply requiring students to keep phones switched off and out of sight does not adequately address these issues and is often difficult to enforce consistently.

Schools were invited to submit applications outlining how funding would be used to introduce or strengthen measures that prevent access to mobile phones during the school day.

Applications were assessed by officers within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner against the published criteria, taking account of the proposed approach, value for money, deliverability, and anticipated benefits for pupils. Following evaluation and moderation, recommendations were made for funding.

In total, funding of £254,201 will support 30 secondary schools across Thames Valley in implementing phone free school initiatives.

The funding awarded is for the purpose outlined in the submitted applications. Successful schools will be required to confirm that they have used the funding to purchase and implement the solution proposed.

School Name	Amount
Aylesbury Vale Academy	£14,300
Baylis Court School	£8,800
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	£10,098
Dedworth Middle School	£5,665
Denefield School	£10,780
Glebe Farm All-Through School	£9,900
Gosford Hill School	£7,854
Holyport College	£4,972
Kents Hill Park School	£8,800
Kings Academy Binfield	£5,000
Langley Grammar School	£14,113
Lord Williams's School	£19,030
Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge	£3,384
Maiden Erlegh School	£12,608
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading	£7,704
Meadowbrook College	£1,100
Oakbank School	£3,212
Pebble Brook School	£1,991
Reading Girls' School	£9,812
River Academy	£4,995

Shenley Brook End School	£16,544
Slough and Eton CofE Business and Enterprise College	£9,900
St Edward's Royal Free Middle School	£2,640
The Cottesloe School	£11,407
The Grange School	£13,673
The Oxford Academy	£10,923
The Wren School	£8,591
UTC Reading	£1,650
Wexham School	£10,956
Wheatley Park School	£3,800
Total	£254,201

Decision of Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendation(s) above.

Signature:



Date: 02/09/26

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information contained in this Decision Report is subject to potential disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation.

Part 1 of this Section (information to be disclosed) will be made available on the website within 1 working day of approval of the Decision Report. Any facts and advice that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead in the separate Part 2 ('Exempt Information') section.

Deferment of publication of this Decision Report is only applicable where release of information contained within it before a specified date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is there a Part 2 'Exempt Information' section?

No

Is the publication of this Decision Report to be deferred?

No

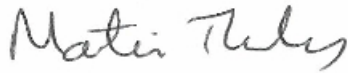
If 'Yes', please state specified earliest date for publication and reasons for deferment:

PCC's STATUTORY CHIEF OFFICERS' APPROVAL

We have been consulted about the proposal(s) contained in this Decision Report and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

We are satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for decision.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Martin Thornley', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Name: Martin Thornley

Role: Chief Finance Officer

Date: 02/09/26