England Tells Schools to Keep Phones Away All Day

The new plan asks schools to keep mobile phones out of reach so children can focus and talk face to face.



Phones are stored near a classroom entrance while children talk together inside the room.

According to BBC Newsround, England announced stricter rules for **mobile** phones in schools. Children would not be able to use, hold, or **reach** their phones during the school day. Schools would have to keep phones away from morning until dismissal.

This goes further than rules England set earlier this year. Those rules let children keep phones in their bags. The phones only had to stay **unseen** and unheard. The new plan says the phone should be out of reach, not just quiet.

The government says the goal is simple. It wants children to pay attention in lessons. It also wants them to talk and play with friends. That means less time looking down at screens. Education leaders said phones can pull children away from learning and from each other.

If this happened at a school, the morning might feel different. Some schools could collect phones at the door. Some could use locked boxes or **lockers**. Others could use sealed **pouches**. A sealed pouch is a small bag that stays closed until an adult opens it. A few schools might say phones cannot come onto school grounds at all.

School leaders say the idea may be harder than it sounds. A head teachers' group warned that schools may need money for safe **storage**. If hundreds of

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children bring phones, the school needs a safe place for each one. Leaders also have to plan for problems. What if a phone is lost? What if it breaks? What if a child needs it after school?

Not everyone in the United Kingdom has the same rules. The United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Scotland is planning a new law to limit personal phone use in schools. Wales recently voted against a national legal ban. That means head teachers there can decide. Northern Ireland is asking people what they think. That is called a consultation, a set time for collecting **opinions**.

For many children, this story is easy to picture. A phone can feel helpful. It can help with rides home or messages from family. It can also be distracting, like a toy buzzing inside a backpack. The big question for schools is not only whether phones belong there. It is how to make a rule that is fair, safe, and possible to follow.

Written from reporting by BBC Newsround.

THINK IT THROUGH

1. **Should one phone rule be the same for every child, or should families and teachers help decide case by case?**

   > **A strong answer:** A strong answer weighs fairness, safety, learning time, and the difficulty of making exceptions.

2. **Which way of storing phones seems most fair and practical: collecting them, locking them away, using pouches, or banning them from campus?**

   > **A strong answer:** A strong answer compares convenience, cost, trust, and what could go wrong during a real school day.

3. **What information would you want before deciding whether a phone ban is a good idea for a school?**

   > **A strong answer:** A strong answer asks for evidence from students, teachers, families, and school leaders, not just opinions.

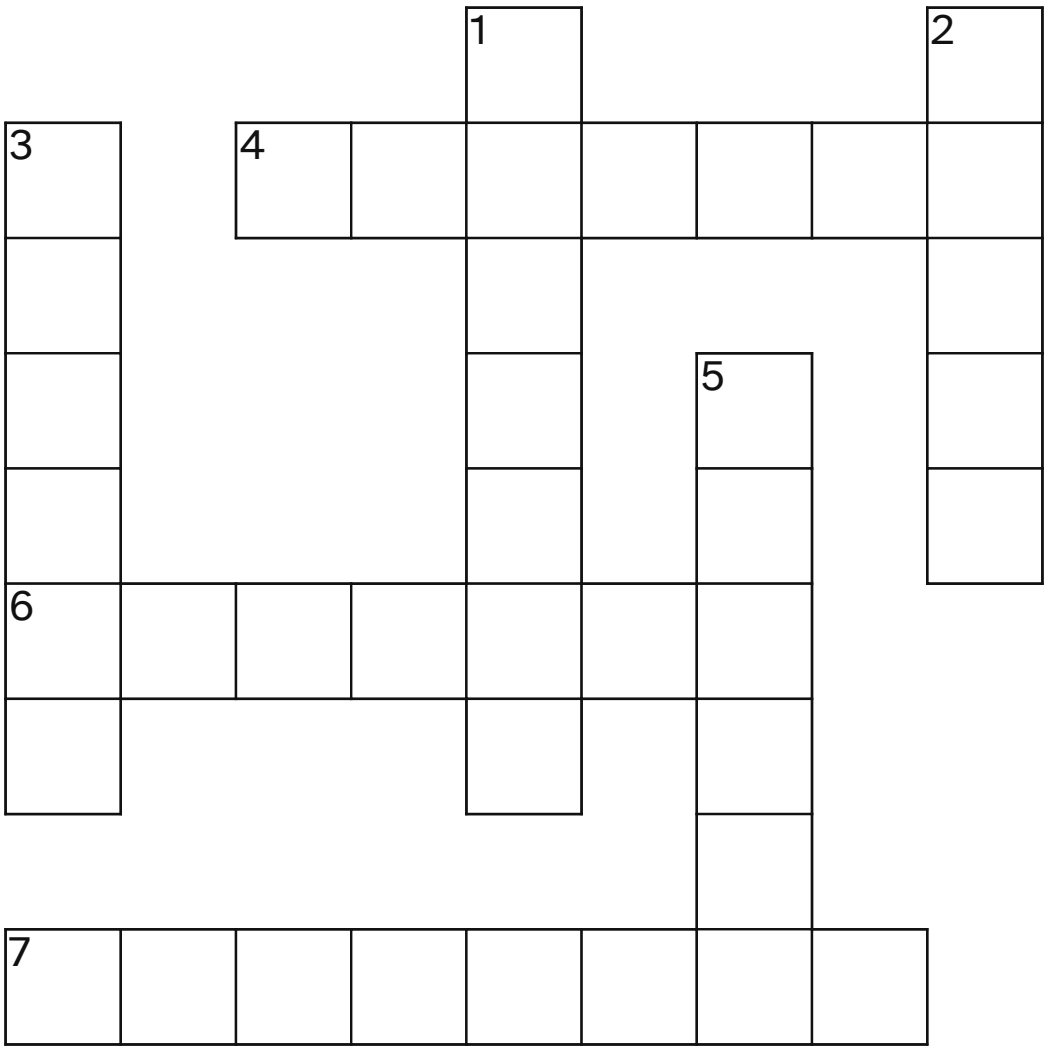
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LOCKERS MOBILE OPINIONS POUCHES REACH
STORAGE UNSEEN

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ACROSS

4 Safe place for keeping things until needed

6 Small school spaces for keeping belongings safely

7 Ideas about what someone thinks is best or true

DOWN

1 Small bags for carrying items

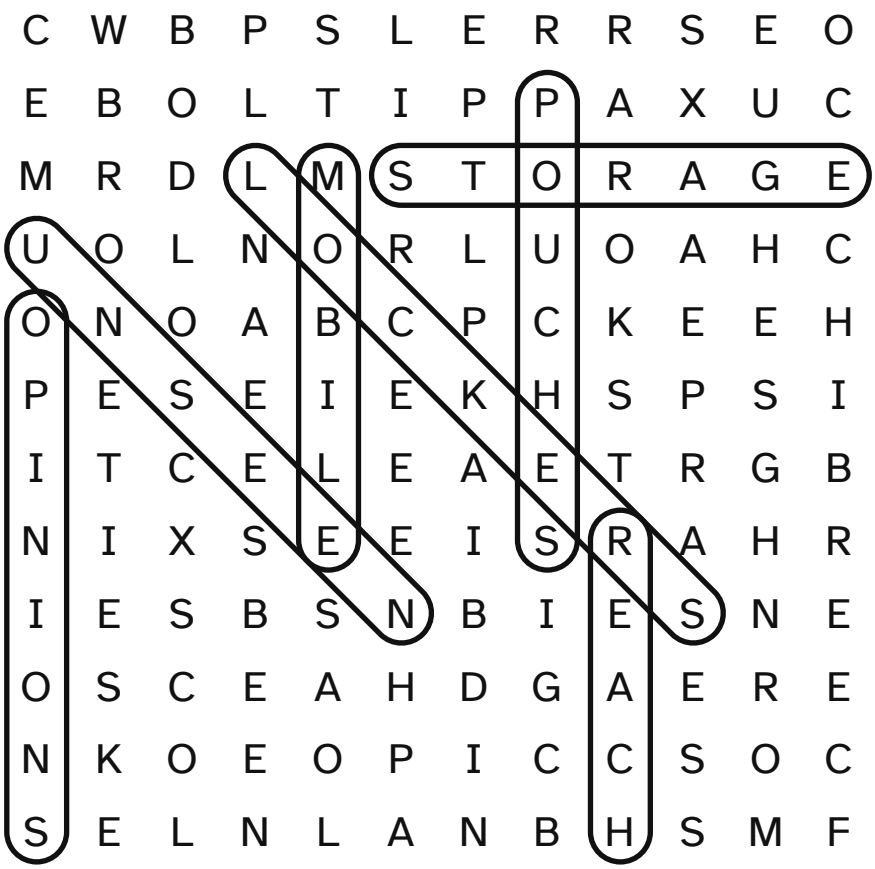
2 Distance close enough to touch or get something

3 Device for calls, texts, and apps

5 Not able to be noticed by eyes

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— answer key

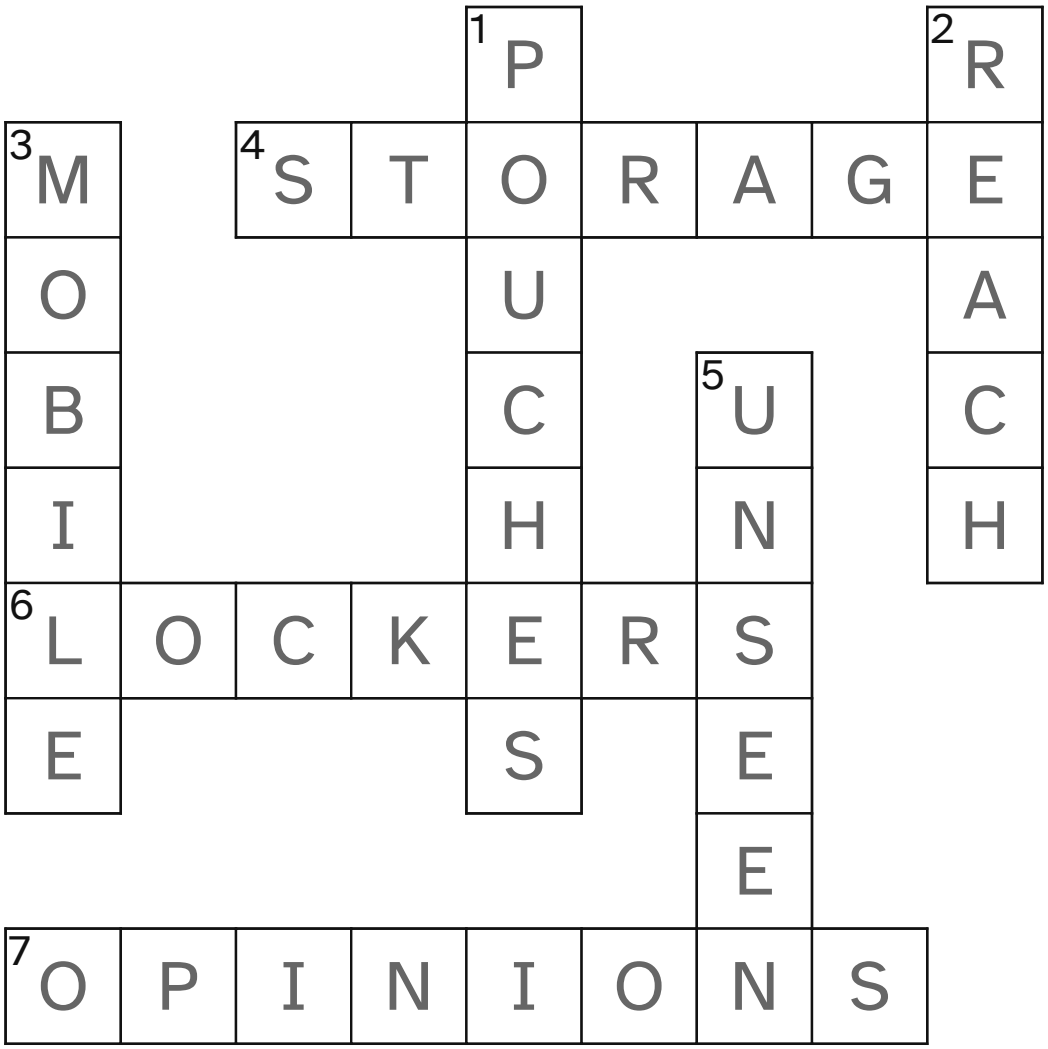


LOCKERS MOBILE OPINIONS POUCHES REACH STORAGE UNSEEN

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Where this came from

This article was written for 3andB from the reporting below. It is not a reprint — the wording is ours and the facts are theirs.

BBC Newsround

"Government wants schools to be stricter on phone rules"

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cm9qzqd1nvvlo?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss

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