

Mobile Phone Policy
Fillongley Scout Group



It is the policy of Fillongley Scout Group that Mobile Phones should not be taken on camps, activities or to weekly meetings by any young person under the age of 18.

The reasons for this are two fold:

1) Within the rules of the Scout Association, we have a strict procedure for contacting parents or the relevant authorities should accidents or problems arise on an activity or camp. Mobile phones have recently compromised this procedure.

Every camp/activity has an official telephone number for you to contact (in the event of an emergency) the activity leader. The activity leader is also able to contact parents, either directly or via a home contact, should the need arise.

A mobile phone gives members the opportunity to contact their parents directly, bypassing the role of Leaders. Undue distress may be caused on the part of the parent and/or their child concerning incidents leaders may know nothing about it. This particularly applies to cases of homesickness. It is important that members use a leader as their first point of contact for any concerns or problems they have, so that the leader team can work to resolve these issues. Leaders will then arrange to contact parents via the official channels as and when necessary.

2) Now that most phones have cameras and internet access, there is the potential for actions taken by scouts, however innocent the intent, to be misinterpreted, leading unintentionally to Child Protection issues. This is particularly true if photographs are taken without consent or are inappropriate and then subsequently broadcast on social networks.

Parents can help us avoid these problems by ensuring their child does not arrive for a camp or outdoor activity with their phone. If a scout is found using a phone, they will be withdrawn and you will be asked to collect them immediately. The safety of every member is the responsibility of the leaders and they will always have their own form of emergency contact, should problems arise. Scouts should not take on this responsibility.

Very occasionally Scouts and Explorers may be asked to bring a phone to specific events, particularly if they are without leaders for short periods of time. If so, they will have phones, which are wrapped securely in a plastic bag and used for emergency calls only. However, if you have not been specifically asked, do not bring a phone to any camp.

With regard to weekly meetings, again phones are becoming a source of disruption with constant interruptions by taking calls, texting, playing games or listening to music. This makes it very difficult to run an exciting, educational and safe programme.

We are aware that some members arrive for meetings alone and parents wish them to carry phones for safety reasons. In these situations, please ensure phones are handed in to a leader at the start of the evening (switched off) and they will be stored and returned at the end.

Any young person found with a mobile phone which has not been handed in or is not authorised for a specific activity will have it confiscated and it will be returned only to the parent.

If you wish to discuss any matters arising from this policy, please speak to a section leader, who will be happy to advise further

Please note that this policy also applies to any other handheld electronic device or game ie DS, ipod etc

Please return the tear off slip below to the section leader as soon as possible.

YiS

Simon Badham Lesley Gill
Group Chairman GSL

I _____ (name of parent/ guardian) have read and understood the Fillongley Scout Group mobile phone policy in so far as it applies to the following young people under the age of 18.

_____ (name) _____ (section)

_____ (name) _____ (section)

_____ (name) _____ (section)

Issue February 2012

SIGNED (parent / Guardian)

Date