

## Impact of mobile phones on behaviour

We have found that the use of mobile phones, iPads and other mobile devices that connect to WiFi simply distract from the potential friendships and integration the camp offers. We no longer want this to happen and neither do we want volunteers to be checking their phones during the day.

We have therefore decided to **restrict the use of mobile phones/devices on camp for everyone.**

### **Mobile WIFI Device Plan**

1. Volunteers will be requested only to use phones to take photos and not check messages until after the participants are in bed (and not during the evening meeting). The same applies for uploading photos to PHAB Social Media sites (only do this after the bedtime!).
2. Families will be informed at home visits that mobile phones, iPads and other WIFI devices are not permitted on camp and asked not to send/bring them.
3. Photos will be taken by volunteers and shared on a PHAB Instagram (where parents have given permission).
4. Some camps have a pay phone and parents will be guided on what coins to send their child with for this. If needs be, the parent can text the leader who will be able to respond towards the end of the day.

#### **If the participant refuses to agree to this:**

they must make a decision as to whether they wish to come on camp. There's no negotiation as to whether they can have their phone on them on camp. It's about helping them understand this as a group policy that even volunteers will be sticking to.

#### **If the parent refuses to agree this:**

it can be negotiated that the participant's mobile comes on camp but remains in the possession of a Leader or nominated volunteer, and that the child may use it to contact the parent on one designated evening.

#### **If a participant is seen with a mobile device on camp at any time:**

the Leader must simply remove it and return at the end of the camp. There need be no reprimand or further sanction unless the participant refuses to accept the decision.

#### **If mobile devices are kept on camp by a nominated volunteer:**

Leaders will need to agree their own policy for when/how mobiles can be accessed with all the participants and families. Volunteers will need to be clearly briefed on this so that they can uphold the decision consistently.

#### **Suggestion:**

**Postcard Tuesday:** give every participant a pre-stamped and addressed postcard to write home as an evening activity. Allow participants to check their phones and text/call home during this time.

#### **Note**

Such policies can be hard for some to swallow, and we encourage Leaders to feedback how it is working and ask advice where there is clear reticence from a family or volunteer to comply.