

24th Hastings Scout Group

Mobile Phone Policy

Version no.	v0.1
Date first approved	26 th November 2025
Date of next review	February 2027

1. Introduction

The intention of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the use of mobile phones and internet-enabled devices by young people when taking part in Scout activities, ultimately to ensure the safety of all members.

It is the policy of 24th Hastings Scout Group that young people should not bring mobile phones to weekly meetings, camps or any other Scouting activities.

2. Reasons for policy

The reasons for this policy are as follow:

a) Activities which our sections take part in will often involve actions that could damage mobile devices, such as devices falling onto the ground or getting wet. The 24th Hastings Scout Group cannot accept any responsibility for this damage.

b) The Scout Association has strict procedures for contacting parents, carers, emergency contacts, and where necessary, the emergency services, should the need arise during a Scouting activity. Use of a mobile phone by a young person could compromise these procedures, potentially leading to misinformation being given out. It could also lead to scenarios where leaders may be completely unaware of an arising situation.

c) As most phones have cameras and internet access, there is a potential that actions taken by young people, however innocent the intent, could lead to Child Protection and Safeguarding issues. This is particularly true if photographs are taken without consent or are inappropriate and then subsequently broadcast on social networks.

d) Mobile phones can provide a source of distraction which can interfere with activities, as well as interrupting those activities for other young people and Leaders.

3. Contact between parents/carers and young people during activities

During any Scouting meeting, activity or camp, the leaders will have a designated mobile phone and the relevant contact information so that parents or carers can be contacted if needed.

If a parent or carer needs to contact a young person during a meeting, activity or camp, then an 'on call' phone number will be made available prior to the activity taking place, in line with the Scout Association's 'In Touch' policy.

4. Failure to comply with policy

Any young person found to be using a mobile phone or device during a weekly meeting, camp or other Scouting activity, outside of any previously agreed circumstances, will be asked to stop using the mobile phone or device and give it to Leaders for safe-keeping.

An initial discussion will be held about behaviour in accordance with the Behaviour Management Policy. If there are safety or safeguarding concerns or the young person does not comply with the request to stop using the phone/give the device to Leaders then the young person may be withdrawn from the activity and parents or carers may be asked to collect them immediately.

5. Agreed exceptions

If a parent or carer believes there is a valid reason for their young person to have their mobile phone at a weekly meeting, camp or Scouting activity, they should discuss this with the section leader, who will decide on a case-by-case basis the best course of action to take. This may include escalating to the Group Scout Leader to make a decision.

If it is agreed that a young person can bring their mobile phone to a weekly meeting, it will be locked in the kitchen of HQ for the duration of the meeting.

If it is agreed that a mobile phone can be brought to an activity away from HQ or a camp, the phone should remain stored away and switched off.

6. Further information

Any parents or carers who have questions about this policy should contact their section leader in the first instance.