

SAFEGUARDING			 UKSA
POLICY:	Under 18's Leisure and Sea.Change Mobile Phone Policy	DOC REF:	QSG-016
		REV:	1
ASPECT:	Safeguarding	DATE:	20.11.24

Introduction

The aim of this policy is to ensure safe and appropriate practices in the use of mobile phones and other mobile technology through establishing clear rules for those children who bring their mobile phones with them to UKSA. Our policy applies to all mobile devices capable of taking photographs or video, accessing the internet and making and receiving calls and messaging services, which are brought by U18s on our leisure courses including Sea.Change.

Scope

As mobile devices become more part of everyday existence, we at UKSA are constantly adapting our policies to satisfy the needs and safety of our children and young people, whilst promoting good mental health and wellbeing. We are also keen to create an environment where children and young people can step away from digital reliance and can live in the moment.

We recognise and understand that many parents and carers value their children having a mobile phone. They can provide security and reassurance, enhance safety and capture memories of great adventures when used appropriately. We are therefore happy for children to bring a mobile phone and use them during periods where we deem it practical and safe to do so but we have limited these times as set out below.

Good to go	Once rooms are vacant for breakfast, Lead House Captain will return phones.
Good to go	Throughout the morning free time and breakfast period 8am to 9am.
No thank you	Morning activity sessions - 9 till 12pm
No thank you	Throughout the lunchtime period and prior to afternoon activity sessions - 12pm to 1pm
No thank you	Afternoon activity sessions - 1pm to 4.30pm
Good to go	After activity free time - 4.30 to 6pm.
No thank you	During evening entertainment - 6pm to 8.30pm.
Good to go	Evening free time returning to the accommodation - 8.30pm to 10pm.
No thank you	Before lights out, phones will be handed in and stored until morning.

We understand that each family has their own perspective and rules on what is appropriate phone use for their child and whilst we respect this, it is not feasible or practical for us to apply different rules for different children. To support safe usage and to safeguard our children and young people we have in place a set of guidelines.

We take our responsibility of safeguarding our children and young people seriously and appreciate your support in this matter. We are aware there are risks associated with improper mobile phone use and this is further documented in our safeguarding and anti-bullying policies if you would like to read more. We fundamentally believe that limiting both phone and social media improves wellbeing and to support this:

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UKSA will ensure:

- Ensure that all child guests and their parents/guardians have access to this policy prior to arrival and understand our expectations.
- Take responsibility for phones handed in for safekeeping and make them available to children at suitable times. If your child is here for the day there will be extremely limited periods to use their phone as they will be asked to place their phones in their bag during morning, lunchtime and afternoon sessions.
- Continue to train our staff to be vigilant and monitor for inappropriate or impractical use as part of our safeguarding vigilance.
- Respond appropriately to any concern of harm or risk of harm to any child caused by the use of any mobile device by any individual.
- Encourage children and young people to safely store phones in their bags during restricted phone use times.
- For young people staying overnight we will ensure phones are collected in and stored safely when use is not permitted (during activities, evening entertainment, nighttime etc).

Parent's responsibilities:

- Ensure that you and your child have understood this policy prior to arrival and that phone use will be extremely limited.
- Ensure that you have adequate insurance to cover the loss or damage of any devices brought to UKSA by your child.
- Ensure that the phone has an appropriate case or cover to protect it when in storage.
- Ensure that any device is clearly marked with your child's name.
- Consider the application of a parental control app, prior to arrival. This will enable you to restrict the usage time, functions and internet sites that are accessible, there are many apps available for Apple and Android which are free of charge. Alternatively, consider providing a phone that does not have access to data.

The decision to bring a mobile device to UKSA is down to each individual parent / guardian and your trust in your child's ability to use it responsibly and without causing harm or disturbance to others. Children need to take responsibility for their own actions and be capable of making appropriate choices in relation to phone use. If you have any doubts, we recommend that the device is left at home, or a parental control app is installed, or the device is handed in on arrival for safekeeping or kept in a bag with no responsibility to UKSA.

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Children's and young people's responsibilities:

- Tell a member of UKSA staff if they are unhappy or concerned that others are not acting within our guidelines, if they feel they are being bullied or witness someone else being bullied or are being affected in any unacceptable way
- Understand that sending abusive, nasty or threatening messages via text /e-mails / instant messaging / airdrop/chat rooms/Blu-tooth, to someone is a type of bullying. This could include sharing those texts with other people who might join in the bullying and understand it could be against the law.
- Respect the property of others; making no attempt to damage, remove or play pranks with a device belonging to someone else.
- Always ask permission to take pictures of UKSA staff or other guests.
- Do not have, view or share any inappropriate content on their phone online or via any form of messaging or sharing.
- Ensure that they are not causing any upset or disturbance to other children through the use of their mobile device; for example, by playing music or video with the sound on loud.
- Ensure under all circumstances, that mobile devices are not used during restricted periods. Should they need to use their phone they should seek permission from UKSA Staff.
- Hand in their device when asked during 'restricted times' (activity sessions, evening entertainment, nighttime).

We will respond effectively if phones are being used inappropriately; anyone found to be using a device in an unauthorised or inappropriate manner will be dealt with in the following way:

We will confiscate devices until the end of the day if they are accessed or used during restricted times without the permission of the Staff.

We will temporarily confiscate devices that are causing distraction and return them when deemed appropriate.

We will confiscate devices for the remainder of the stay or curtail the stay for repeated breaches of our guidelines.

We reserve the right to access and check any images or inappropriate content if suspected.

We will follow our Safeguarding Process and report to the Police / Children's Services any allegation or issues where we have reasonable cause for concern that a child is at risk of harm.

If you have any questions at any time, please ask to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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