

## Mobile Phones, Electronic Toys & Gadgets Policy

### Background

This policy has been written to give clear guidance on the Group's policy with regard to members having mobile phones, electronic toys and gadgets in their possession during Group activities. It has been decided that this is necessary because leaders have concerns about instances that have occurred or might occur such as:

- Children, who when asked at camp to do something that they did not want to do (e.g. washing up), were phoning home without the Leaders' knowledge and telling parents they were unhappy and wanted to go home. By the time a distressed parent arrived to pick up the child, he/she was having a whale of a time and did not want to leave.
- Children playing games or texting whilst not watching or paying attention to what they were doing (a particular example being whilst crossing a road) were a liability and danger both to themselves and others.
- Whilst using these gadgets, children were not learning to interact socially with their peers, which is one of the fundamentals principles of Scouting.

### Rules

Unless specifically allowed for an event all mobile phones, electronic toys and gadgets are banned from all our meetings, camps and other activities.

On the rare occasion when they are allowed (normally mobile phones for safety reasons) the 18<sup>th</sup> Edmonton Scout Group will accept no liability for their loss or damage.

### Consequences

- On the first occasion a child is found with one of these items it will be confiscated and only returned to a parent or guardian after the event.
- On subsequent occasions the item will be confiscated and only returned to a parent or guardian after the event on the payment of a £10 fine which the Group will donate to its nominated charity for the year.

It should be noted that in an emergency leaders' phones can be used by members to contact home or for parents and guardians to contact their child.

Policy:	Mobile Phone, Electronic Toys & Gadgets	Exec Approved:	23/04/19
Written By:	Group Scout Leader	Next Review Date:	04/20