



Mobile Phone Policy

Created: 1st November 2024

Principles of Mobile Phone Use at Art Camp

At Art Camp, we recognize that personal devices can present specific risks to the safeguarding of children, particularly due to:

1. The use of cameras,
2. Access to the internet, and
3. Potential distraction from duties.

Throughout Art Camp’s policies, the term “mobile phone” also includes any personal device with photographic capabilities and/or internet access, such as smartwatches.

Art Camp adheres to the Department for Education’s guidance, implementing the “Never used, seen, or heard” principle.

Children’s Mobile Phones

We understand that mobile phones are increasingly common among children; however, we also acknowledge the potential risks associated with their use. At Art Camp, we strive to create a safe, fun, and inspiring environment, and as part of this commitment, all mobile phones and electronic devices are prohibited on-site. If a device is seen, we take the following steps:

- **Stage 1: First Occasion**
 - The child is asked to put the device back in their belongings.
 - The parent/guardian is informed about the device being used and asked to ensure it is not used at camp.
- **Stage 2: Second Occasion**
 - The child is asked to hand the device over to the Site Manager.
 - The device is stored securely and returned to the parent/guardian at the end of the day.

- A warning is issued, explaining that a third occurrence will lead to more serious consequences.
- **Stage 3: Third Occasion**
 - The child is asked to hand over the device to the Site Manager.
 - The parent/guardian is contacted immediately to collect the child from camp.

Please note: Art Camp will not be responsible for any theft or damage to electronic devices.

Staff Mobile Phones

Staff members are required to refrain from personal use of mobile phones within sight of children at Art Camp. If they keep phones on their person, the devices must remain silenced. If a staff member needs to make or receive an urgent call, they must arrange for another staff member to cover their duties.

- Staff are prohibited from taking photos of children on personal devices without explicit permission from the Director.
 - If permission is granted to take photos, staff must delete the images immediately after sharing them with the Director.
 - The Leadership Team will enforce these expectations to maintain a safe and professional environment.
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Reasonable Adjustments

In some cases, reasonable adjustments may be required due to disabilities or specific family needs. For instance:

- A child or adult with diabetes may need to use an app to monitor blood sugar levels.
- Staff with young children in other settings may require exceptions to this policy for emergency purposes.

These exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and managed appropriately to ensure they do not compromise safeguarding standards.