11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group Explorers
Mobile Phone Policy: A Fair Use Agreement

The intention of this policy is to ensure the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones by members of 11th Nuneaton Explorers. Mobile phone use at Scouting events is deemed a privilege and only allowed when this policy is followed.

Attachments
Appendix 1. Explorer's Phones Fair Use Agreement.

Justification
11th Nuneaton have adopted a 'no phones' approach for the group. Explorer Scouts have chosen to create an alternative agreement due to the nature of their programme and age and responsibility of members. A fair use agreement has been written by young people and leaders in conjunction to cover the three main areas of concern for mobile phone use covered below.

1. Communication with parents
11th Nuneaton follows The Scout Association's InTouch system for communication. When joining the group, section leaders will inform parents how to contact them during and in between meetings. For each overnight event/activity, a phone number will be provided for use in an emergency. This may be a central group number or leader's own mobile phone numbers depending on the event. For each overnight event, an additional form is completed by parents with their contact details which allows leaders to contact them should the need arise.

If young people can use their mobile phone this system can be bypassed. Young people should make their leaders aware of issues/incidents so that appropriate action can be taken to resolve any problems. Young people directly contacting their parents can cause undue distress and concern to all parties involved. Parents should still contact section leaders first in case of emergency so that the young person can be properly supported and informed at an appropriate time during an event.

2. Social media and internet usage
However innocent the intent, an action, message or photograph can be misinterpreted, leading to unintentional safeguarding issues. In addition, young people may see content on social media or websites that may upset or concern them. Young people should speak with a leader immediately should they have any concerns with online content that they have seen who can help them take appropriate action.

To avoid upset or misinterpretation, Explorers are reminded to consider their content before posting and gain consent from all other members prior to posting online. The internet should only be used for constructive and appropriate purposes relevant to the activity that is being run.

3. Disruption and security

Phones can be a major distraction during meetings and can cause disruption to the entire section when used to take calls, messaging, playing games or listening to music. This makes it difficult to run a safe, exciting and educational programme. For this reason, phones should be switched off or on silent mode for meetings and events. They should only be used during activities when a leader explicitly allows them.

Phones should not be used at events which are run jointly with younger sections except in Explorer-only areas such as their mess tent on overnight events.

Fair Use Agreement
Before a young person can bring their mobile phone to Explorers, they must read and understand the fair use agreement (appendix 1). It must be signed by themselves and their parents/guardian who accept responsibility for young people adhering to the policy. If a fair use agreement has not been signed, the group policy will apply as default for the young person and they will not be allowed to bring or use their mobile phone at events. It should be noted that neither The Scout Association nor 11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group or Nuneaton District Scouts can take responsibility for any device.

If the agreement is breached in any way, Explorer leaders will remove all phone privileges. An investigation may lead to withdrawal from an event or expulsion from the group. Where appropriate, parents will be contacted and/or the police informed. In cases of dispute or uncertainty, the Group Scout Leader and/or District Commissioners will aid decision making.

Young Leaders
It is up to the ruling of the section leaders of the Beaver, Cub or Scout section whether Explorers are allowed to use their phones whilst supporting events or meetings in their role of Young Leader. Explorers must not take photos or make comment about members of younger sections.

Concerns
If you wish to discuss any part of this policy, please speak to any Explorer Leader who will be happy to discuss matters. Their contact details can be found on the Information Leaflet given to every young person at the point of joining, and when updated.

References
11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group. Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy
The Scout Association. Chapter 9. Emergency Procedures. POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules)
The Scout Association. Factsheet FS120075 InTouch.

Mobile Phone
Fair Use Agreement

Mobile phone use is deemed a privilege whilst at Scouting events and is only permissible when the young person and their parent or guardian has signed this agreement. The persons who sign this agreement are responsible for ensuring it is always followed during Scout events.

- Phones should be switched off (or on silent mode) and stored away during an Explorer meeting unless permission has been granted by an Explorer leader. Phones must not be used as an alternative to participation in an activity.
- Phones should only be used for lawful, appropriate purposes that are relevant to the activity being run.
- Photos taken should portray the person(s), activity and Scouting in a positive way only. Take photos and videos only if you would be happy being the subject of that image.
- Gain consent from the person(s) photographed, referred to, mentioned or tagged in posts before sharing or posting content on social media or online.
- Music should only be listened to with permission of Explorer leaders; this includes listening via earphones as well as out loud. Absolutely no explicit, violent or hurtful content.
- Concerns or questions about content or material seen or heard on an Explorer's own or other people's devices should be raised to a leader or other responsible adult immediately.
- If an issue or incident happens, Explorers should not contact anybody other than emergency services or other as instructed by leaders. Explorer leaders are responsible for sharing information in a safe and appropriate way.
- Phones are not to be used when members of younger sections are present. Leaders of the younger section are to decide if mobile phone use is allowed during their meetings. Photography and discussion (private or public) of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts is forbidden.
- Neither The Scout Association, 11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group nor individual leaders can take responsibility for devices when brought to Scout events.
- Appropriate consequences for breaching this agreement are to be decided by the Explorer leaders. Where appropriate, parents will be contacted and/or the police informed.

Explorer Scout	**Parent/Guardian**
Name:	Name:
Signature:	Signature:
Date of birth:	Relationship:
Date:	Date: