

School trip policy on the use of mobile phones

Information about the use of mobile phones on school trips.

As a general rule for school trips, students are not encouraged to take mobile phones and there are well thought out reasons for this.

It is important that staff are aware of any problems before parents. We don't want the parent to find out about an issue before the staff do. This might cause parents to worry before staff have had a chance to act and in most cases the issue can be easily resolved with a conversation between student and staff member e.g. home sickness, friendship issues, minor medical ailments.

In case of a serious emergency we want the member of the Senior Leadership Team in charge or the trip leader to have had the chance to solve the problem / action plan that is implemented and to be in control of the situation so that they can tell parents what has been done and are then able to support the student and parents through the situation in a better way.

We want students to learn to be independent strong leaders which, for many, they will have to do at university especially those moving far from home. Parents will not always be on hand immediately therefore we are looking to promote those initial problem solving skills for the short time we are away.

If there are any issues at either end from parent or student, the system is set up in such a way that if needed, we can relay messages between the member of the Senior Leadership Team and trip leader and allow students to contact family if necessary.

Parents would always be informed if anything serious happened while in the trip whether medical, personal, emotional or otherwise.

In the case of the Pangani trip, students are being allowed to take their phones as we feel they will benefit from them on the considerably long journeys. However we do feel that contact with parents / students should only be made if there is an emergency. The trip is designed to encourage leadership and independence and we will ask students to tell a staff member, in the first instance, if there is a problem.

Also, we can never guarantee that there will be a signal or internet at the campsite and/or when they'll be free with their busy schedules so we say no news is good news and would not want to cause you alarm if you are unable to get in touch with your daughter.