



Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

Review Date: January 2022

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Willow Banks Forest School aims to keep all children safe.

It is the strong recommendation of Willow Banks Forest School that students and parents carefully weigh the choice of whether or not to bring personal cell phones, music players, cameras, and other electronic devices to forest school. They can be disruptive to the learning environment, often create discipline problems, and are all too frequently damaged, lost, or stolen. If students do bring cell phones and / or other electronic devices to forest school, they are subject to the following policy guidelines.

Use of Electronic Devices at School:

1. Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during forest school sessions, unless otherwise directed by forest school staff. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the forest school mobile is the appropriate point of contact to ensure that your child is reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way.
2. Mobile phones must not disrupt forest school sessions with ringtones, beeping, or vibrating.
3. Mobile phones and other electronic devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts educational activities, such as woodland visits.
4. Mobile phones, cameras, or other devices should not be used to photograph or film others without their consent.
5. We do understand that at times mobile phones can be useful tools for research or photography whilst in the field, this is to be done under the guidance and with the permission of forest school staff.

Care for Electronic Devices:

1. Students who bring phones or other electronic devices to forest school are solely responsible for the safety and security of those devices.
2. The school accepts no responsibility for cell phones or other electronic devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen at school or while traveling to and from forest school.

Process for Violation of This Policy:

Students who violate the rules for the use of cell phones and other electronic devices, set forth above, will face sanctions as described below:

- **First violation** – warning by forest school staff and reminded of the guidelines.
- **Second violation** – cell phone/electronic device confiscated by forest school staff to be returned at the end of the school day.
- **Third violation** – confiscation, item given to forest school managers to be picked up at end of the day or later by parent/guardian.
- **Fourth violation** - meeting with parents and child to discuss future plans.