

High Borran

Guidance for teachers on mobile phone use whilst at High Borran

'New [mobile phones in schools guidance](#) issued on 19th February 2024 backs headteachers in prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including at break times.

Many schools around the country are already prohibiting mobile phone use with great results. This guidance will ensure there is a consistent approach across all schools.' (www.gov.uk)

During your residential course school staff hold the loco parentis for the children in their care. We will happily work with and support visiting teachers to follow their own policies on pupils using mobile phones.

We would like to add some specific recommendations for residentials and activities at High Borran:

- Our preference is for pupils to leave their mobile phones at home. This adds to the residential experience and allows them to be immersed in the experience with their peers.
- If pupils need their phones whilst with us, then we ask the following: not in bedrooms, not at mealtimes and not on activities. We suggest an hour of access on an evening.
- Visiting staff will have access to the centre telephone. In an emergency, or a special occasion pupils may use this to phone home during their residential.
- Broadband access and mobile reception are limited at the centre. We do not provide access to broadband for pupils as the system will not support this.
- Any phone chargers must be in good working order with no frayed cables. The classroom provides a suitable location for supervised charging of pupils' phones. We discourage pupils bringing electrical goods, certainly not hair dryers and straighteners. We have hair dryers available.
- Please plan ahead and communicate how you will be managing phones with parents or carers early. Talk to your Course Tutor when planning your course so we can help you.
- Our instructors will always have a mobile phone with them whilst out on activities for emergency use. Visiting staff stand the risk of their phone being damaged whilst on activities. Phones do not like water! We can provide a dry bag to look after your phone.
- There will be plenty of time for updating social media accounts and posting news during minibus journeys and on evenings. During activities there are times when we really need visiting staff to be focussed on their children and assisting with safety management.

Thanks for your support.

James Bumby 20th February 2024