

Mobile Phone Policy

As of 1st September 2009, Myddelton Grange introduced a 'no mobile' policy. Mobile phones are banned absolutely from the Grange, for the following reasons:

- They were proving a regular distraction during retreat sessions.
- Restricting their use to bedrooms and free time has only served to encourage calling and texting after 'lights-out' and has proved a problems for teachers.
- Videoing has taken place of members of Grange and school staff.
- Videos have found their way onto social networking sites such as 'YouTube', thus infringing Myddelton Grange child Safe-guarding policy.
- There had been a couple of occasions when a teacher's decision or judgement has been challenged by young people phoning home and involving parents over the phone.

We ask that you make young people and their parents aware of this policy during your planning of retreats. Upon their arrival they will be reminded of the policy, and an amnesty period will be observed, whereby any phones can be handed to the lead member of staff from your school. We shall provide suitable storage for the phones for this staff member, so that in an emergency it can be retrieved. They can be re-distributed at the end of the retreat. A payphone is available on site. Violation of the amnesty and the Grange policy on mobile phones will be treated as seriously as a smoking or alcohol offence.

I am aware that this policy may appear very Draconian to the young people who come here, but I can make no apologies for it after seeing abuse of this technology increasing year by year. Apart from the protection of Grange staff and school staff, this policy aims to ensure that young people are able to get the most out of our retreats with as little external distraction as possible