

AGREEMENT RELATING TO USE OF PHONES, CAMERAS, FACEBOOK AND OTHER MEDIA CHANNELS BY THOSE INVOLVED WITH FOREST PULSE

Forest Pulse trustees and senior staff are very aware of the important part mobile phones, I-Pads, games consoles, cameras, social networking sites and chatrooms now play in the lives of many young people. In particular, I-Pads are now used by many of our members as communication aids, and having photographs of people they know and places they visit is an integral part of this. However, we are also aware of how difficult it is for us to police the use of these media. Young people bring their phones, I-Pads and games consoles to activities, many of them with inbuilt cameras. They share telephone numbers, Facebook contacts and take photos of their friends. They class volunteers and staff as their friends. This is not a philosophy we wish to discourage, but we have to consider the implications. We therefore ask you to read this agreement very carefully and ensure you are happy with the charity's approach to this issue. If you have any concerns at all, please feel free to discuss these with senior staff members.

I understand that whilst at Forest Pulse activities the following situations may arise :-

Your child may use media equipment (not necessarily just a camera) to take photos of other members/volunteers/staff members whilst at activities.

Your child might have their photograph taken using some form of media equipment (e.g. mobile phone, I-Pad) by other young people taking part in Forest Pulse activities – your child may possibly only be in the background. These images can then be transferred to Facebook and other media.

Your child may exchange mobile phone numbers with other young people at activities. They may also give their mobile phone numbers to volunteers and staff to enable contact regarding transport, times of activities etc. Young people may also share unmonitored images and downloads between themselves.

Your child could have access to material which other young people have downloaded onto their own phones/ I-Pads/game consoles etc which has not been monitored and might be considered inappropriate, though Forest Pulse Staff and volunteers will do everything in their power to monitor this type of content and will inform parents/carers if inappropriate information is on their child's phone etc.

Your child might exchange Facebook or other social networking information with other young people in order to communicate at times when they are not together at Forest Pulse activities.

Other young people may post photographs of their friends, which might include your son/daughter, on facebook.

Please note that anyone who is not directly involved with Forest Pulse will not be allowed to take photographs of any of our members without the agreement of the member's parents/carers.

Full time and permanent staff of the charity are directed not to accept any Forest Pulse members on Facebook and only to use mobile phone contacts for correspondence directly related to Forest Pulse activities. Other staff members and volunteers are asked not to put photographs of members on Facebook and not to pass photographs on to any third party. They are also advised not to share mobile phone numbers with members, and are advised of the issues which can arise from being 'friends' with members on Facebook.

Please be assured that the charity will do everything in its power to ensure all these forms of media are used appropriately by everyone involved with the charity.

I am the parent/carer of and I understand and agree to all of the above. If I have any concerns at any time I will raise these with a senior staff member.

Name (Caps)..... Signature

Date

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