



## **4<sup>th</sup> Newbury Scout Group Policy & Guidelines for What's App Group use.**

**Approved November 2024**

1. 4<sup>th</sup> Newbury have section based parent's what's app groups to facilitate communication between parents and leaders and between parents.
2. It is at the discretion of the section team leader as to whether the group supports push only messaging to parents from the leaders in that section or full two-way messaging between group members. The leaders will confirm which they are happy to support.
3. This is a short message service, and any communications should be brief and short. No extensive messages or rambling texts etc. Examples include we are running late, Fred is off school sick etc.
4. Any parents wishing to talk to the leaders can use the section email address to request a F2F meeting etc.
5. For parent-to-parent messages, these can concern arranging pickups, drop offs, sharing lifts etc.
6. Under no circumstances should there be any criticism of the leaders, other cubs/families/parents or the program of activities including camps, trips etc. Any concerns should be sent by email to the leaders/Trustees.
7. Photographs may be posted on Section What's app groups, but only in accordance with the guidelines provided at the end of this policy.
8. Under no circumstances are any contact details, visible in the what's app groups to be shared by anyone in the group with anyone else outside the group. This particularly applies to the leader's details which are visible.
9. Failure by any parent to follow these simple guidelines will result in immediate removal from the What's App group. The Section leader's decision is final.

- 1) Parents/carers can only post appropriate photographs of their own children. They must not post photographs of any other children.
- 2) Leaders can post photographs of any members whose parents/carers have given permission for photographs to be used. They must follow the guidelines as laid down by the Scout Association Safeguarding Policy at all times. Where photographs of a group of children include a child for whom permission for the use of photographs has not been given, the leader must use photo editing software to either remove the child or make them unrecognizable.
- 3) Permission for the use of photographs is given by parents/carers when the child joins the 4<sup>th</sup> Newbury Scout Group. It will be considered to remain in place until the member leaves the Group but may be revoked in writing at any time by the parent/carer. This revocation must be sent to the section leader.
- 4) If permission to use photographs is withdrawn by the parent/carer, the leaders will ensure that any photographs taken after that date will not include the named child. They are not responsible for changing any photographs that were taken prior to that date. The parent/carer may, however, identify any photographs on the Facebook group that they want to be removed, and the leaders will be responsible for actioning this.
- 5) The group will at no time guarantee access to any photo posted on the site. Access to any or all photos could be removed at any time without prior notice at the sole discretion of the group.
- 6) Members may not take copies of photographs (other than those which are solely of their own children) from the Facebook group and post them anywhere else on Facebook or other social media sites. Leaders cannot be responsible for photographs that appear on other areas of social media that originated on the Facebook group.