



# Mobile phone and electronic devices Policy

*This policy refers to all electronic devices able to take pictures, record videos, send or receive calls and messages. This includes cameras, mobile telephones, tablets and any recording devices including smartwatches. More and more devices are technically, capable of connecting us to the outside world. We will adapt the policy to include all devices we deem required to safeguard children.*

*This policy also relates to Social Networking Policy (EYFS3-01-043)*

## **Mobile phones and other devices that accept calls, messages and video calling**

At Natural Choice Nurseries we promote the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We believe our staff should be completely attentive during their hours of working to ensure all children in the nursery receive good quality care and education.

Where the term 'smartwatches' is written in the policy, it indicates a device which is active and allows calls, text messages and video calling. This device if worn during the working day, MUST be disabled of these notifications and functions to be worn as a 'regular' watch (i.e. in flightmode)

To ensure the safety and well-being of children we do not allow staff to 'use' personal mobile phones, and smartwatches during working hours.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the online safety section of our safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policy (EYFS3-01-012) to ensure children are kept safe when using the nursery devices online

Staff must adhere to the following:

- Mobile phones/smartwatches are either turned off or on silent and not accessed during your working hours
- Mobile phones/smartwatches can only be used on a designated break and then this must be away from the children
- Mobile phones/smartwatches should be stored safely in the designated locked phone box at all times during the hours of your working day
- No personal device is allowed to be connected to the nursery wifi at any time
- Fitbits and other similar wrist worn electronic devices which connect via Bluetooth, must have notifications disabled to prevent distraction
- The use of nursery devices, such as tablets, must only be used for nursery purposes
- The nursery devices will not have any social media or messaging apps on them
- Any apps downloaded onto nursery devices must be done only by management. This will ensure only age appropriate and safe apps will be accessible to staff or children using them
- Passwords / passcodes for nursery devices must not be shared or written down
- During outings, staff will use mobile phones belonging to the nursery wherever possible. Photographs must not be taken of the children on any personal phones or any other personal information storage device. Only nursery owned devices will be used to take photographs or film videos
- Nursery devices will not be taken home with staff and will remain secure at the setting when not in use. If a device is needed to be taken home due to unforeseen circumstances, then the person taking this device home must ensure it is securely stored and not accessed by another other individual and returned to nursery as soon as practically possible

## **Parents' and visitors' use of mobile phones and smartwatches**

Whilst we recognise that there may be emergency situations which necessitate the use of a mobile telephone, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of children in our care and share information about the child's day.

However, parents and visitors are kindly asked to refrain from using their mobile telephones whilst in the nursery or when collecting or dropping off their children.

If a parent is found to be using their phone inside the nursery premises, they will be asked to finish the call or take the call outside.

We do this to ensure all children are safeguarded and the time for dropping off and picking up is a quality handover opportunity, where we can share details about the child.

Visitors (including OFSTED) are requested to leave their mobile phones or smart watches (unless in flight mode) in the safety of the office, where they will be locked away safely.

Parents are requested not to allow their child to wear or bring in devices that may take photographs or record videos or voices. This includes smart watches with these capabilities, such as Vtech. This ensures all children are safeguarded and also protects their property as it may get damaged or misplaced at the nursery.

### **Photographs and videos**

At Natural Choice Nurseries we recognise that photographs and video recordings play a part in the life of the nursery. We ensure that any photographs or recordings (including CCTV) taken of children in our nursery are only done with prior written permission from each child's parent and only share photos with parents in a secure manner. We obtain this when each child is registered, and we ask parents to inform the nursery if their views change.

We ask for individual permissions for photographs and video recordings for a range of purposes including: use in the child's learning journey; for display purposes; for promotion materials including our nursery website, brochure and the local press; and for security in relation to CCTV and the different social media platforms we use. We ensure that parents understand that where their child is also on another child's photograph, but not as the primary person, that may be used in another child's learning journey.

If a parent is not happy about one or more of these uses, we will respect their wishes and find alternative ways of recording their child's play or learning.

Staff are not permitted to take any photographs or recordings of a child on their own information storage devices e.g. cameras, mobiles, tablets or smartwatches and may only use those provided by the nursery. The nursery manager will monitor all photographs and recordings to ensure that the parents' wishes are met, and children are safeguarded.

Photographs or videos recorded on nursery mobile devices will be transferred to the correct storage device to ensure no images are left on these mobile devices.

Parents are not permitted to use any recording device or camera (including those on mobile phones or smartwatches) on the nursery premises without the prior consent of the manager.

### **Online Learning Journals/ Tapestry**

At Natural Choice Nurseries we use tablets in the rooms to take photos of the children and record these directly on to their electronic learning journeys. We ensure that these devices are used for this purpose only and do not install applications such as social media or messaging sites on to these devices.

We also do routine checks to ensure that emails and text messages (where applicable) have not been sent from these devices and remind staff of the whistleblowing policy if they observe staff not following these safeguarding procedures.

Date this policy was reviewed: Feb 2021	
Signature:	
Printed name:	Nicky Edwards
Role of signatory:	Director and Responsible Person