



9 E Safety and Screen Use Policy

Summertime Nursery recognises that technology and digital media can provide valuable opportunities to support children's learning and development. However, we also recognise the potential risks associated with internet access, digital devices and screen use.

This policy sets out how Summertime Nursery will promote children's safety and wellbeing when using digital technology and how the setting will work in partnership with parents and carers to promote safe and appropriate screen use at home.

E-Safety Champion

The setting's E-Safety Champion is Natasha King.

The E-Safety Champion is responsible for:

- Keeping their knowledge of online safety, digital technology and emerging online risks up to date.
- Taking the lead in developing, implementing and reviewing this E-Safety and Screen Use Policy.
- Sharing relevant online safety information and guidance with staff.
- Monitoring and reviewing the setting's arrangements for safe internet and device use.
- Ensuring that concerns relating to online safety are appropriately reported and managed in accordance with the setting's safeguarding procedures.
- Supporting staff to understand their responsibilities when using digital devices in the presence of children.

All staff have a responsibility to promote children's safety when using technology and must report any concerns about inappropriate online content, digital use or children's online safety to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the setting's safeguarding procedures.

Internet Safety and Filtering

Summertime Nursery uses the Thomas Hardye School internet connection, which is protected by a FortiGate firewall, including category-based filtering and additional DNS filtering.

These measures are in place to reduce the risk of children and staff accessing inappropriate or harmful online material.

The setting, in conjunction with Thomas Hardye School, periodically checks the effectiveness of internet filtering using the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) filtering test service.

Internet filtering is not considered a substitute for appropriate supervision. Staff remain responsible for ensuring that children are appropriately supervised whenever digital devices are being used.

If inappropriate or unsuitable content is accidentally accessed, staff must:

1. Immediately stop access to the content.
2. Ensure children are moved away from the screen where appropriate.
3. Report the incident to the E-Safety Champion and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead.
4. Record the incident in accordance with the setting's safeguarding and incident-reporting procedures.
5. Review whether additional filtering, supervision or other preventative measures are required.

Screen Use

Summertime Nursery recognises the importance of active play, physical development, communication, social interaction and real-life experiences during the early years. Screen use will therefore be purposeful, limited and appropriately supervised.

Children under two years

Children under two will not routinely use screens. Screen use will only take place in exceptional circumstances where there is a clear educational, developmental or operational reason and where it is appropriate to the individual child.

Children aged two and over. Screens may be used to support children's learning and development where they enhance a planned learning opportunity or support a specific learning outcome.

- Screen use will be purposeful, age appropriate and proportionate.
- Screen activities will generally be limited to less than one hour per day.
- Screen use will not be used simply to occupy or entertain children.
- Screen use will not replace high-quality adult interaction, conversation, physical activity, creative experiences, outdoor play or opportunities for children to learn through real-life experiences.
- Staff will consider the individual needs, interests and developmental stage of each child when deciding whether screen use is appropriate.
- Children will be supervised by an adult whenever they are using a digital device.
- Children will not be given unrestricted or unsupervised internet access.

Safe Use of Digital Devices

To reduce the risk of children accidentally viewing inappropriate material:

- Internet access on nursery iPads, computers and other connected devices will remain subject to the setting's filtering arrangements.
- Staff will check that websites, applications, videos and other digital content are appropriate before presenting them to children.
- Staff will remain present and actively supervise children when digital devices are being used.
- Devices will be positioned and used in a way that enables staff to monitor what is being viewed.
- Personal devices must not be used to photograph, record or access children's information except in accordance with the setting's agreed procedures.
- Children's privacy and confidentiality must be maintained whenever digital devices are used.
- Photographs and recordings of children will only be taken, stored and shared in accordance with the setting's photography, data protection and safeguarding procedures.

Staff Use of Screens

Staff will ensure that their own use of digital devices does not negatively affect children's experiences.

Staff will:

- Avoid prolonged use of screens for observations, planning or administrative tasks when children require adult interaction and supervision.
- Avoid allowing technology to replace meaningful face-to-face communication with children.
- Prioritise children's emotional, social, physical and communication needs over administrative tasks.
- Ensure that personal mobile phones and other personal devices are stored in the office
- Never access inappropriate, offensive or unsuitable material in the presence of children.
- Report any accidental exposure to inappropriate online material in accordance with the setting's safeguarding procedures.

Wearable Technology

Smart watches must be kept in dark or theatre mode and may only be used to tell the time while on duty. Any other use may lead to investigation and dismissal, unless agreed in advance for medical or SEND needs. Devices with cameras or microphones must never be used to take photos or recordings and must not be connected to personal smartphones during working hours.

Promoting Healthy Digital Habits Staff will model positive and safe technology use and will help children develop age-appropriate understanding of how to use digital technology safely.

Where appropriate, children will be supported to understand simple messages such as:

- Tell an adult if something on a screen worries or upsets you.
- Ask an adult before using a new device, website or application.

- Technology should be balanced with play, movement, conversation and other activities.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

Summertime Nursery recognises that children may have access to a wide range of technology at home. We will work sensitively and positively with parents and carers to promote healthy and safe digital habits.

The setting will:

- Make relevant information and leaflets available in the entrance lobby.
- Display posters and guidance periodically.
- Discuss concerns about a child's screen use sensitively with parents/carers where appropriate.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the E-Safety Champion and setting management, and sooner if there are changes to EYFS statutory requirements, safeguarding guidance, technology, filtering arrangements or identified risks.

Catherine White

Manager

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