

1.6 Use of mobile phones and cameras

Policy statement

We take steps to ensure that there are effective procedures in place to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from the unacceptable use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting.

Procedures

Personal mobile phones

- Personal mobile phones belonging to our staff and volunteers are not to be used on the premises during working hours.
- At the beginning of each individual's shift, personal mobile phones are placed in a box and stored in a locked filing cabinet in the office.
- In the event of an emergency, personal mobile phones may be used in privacy, where there are no children present, with permission from the setting manager.
- Our staff and volunteers ensure that the work telephone number is known to immediate family and other people who need to contact them in an emergency.
- If any members of staff or volunteers take their own mobile phones on outings, for use in the case of an emergency, they must not make or receive personal calls as this will distract them.
- Our staff and volunteers will not use their personal mobile phones for taking photographs of children on outings.
- Parents and visitors are requested not to use their mobile phones whilst on the premises. We make an exception if a visitor's company or organisation operates a lone working policy that requires contact with their office periodically throughout the day. Visitors will be advised of a quiet space where they can use their mobile phone, where there are no children present.
- Staff are allowed to use their mobile phone during breaks, providing no children are present.
- Staff are not permitted to use any camera facility on their mobile at any time of the day.

Cameras and videos

- Our staff and volunteers must not bring their own cameras or video recorders into the setting.
- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken for valid reasons, i.e. to record their learning and development, or for displays within the setting whilst children are present.
- Photographs or recordings of children are only taken on equipment belonging to the setting and deleted accordingly after use.
- Camera and video use is monitored by our setting supervisor.

- Where parents request permission to photograph or record their own children at special events, permission will first be gained from all parents for their children to be included.
- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken of children if parents have signed to say they give permission found on the outings form or the individual child's Registration Form.

A thorough investigation will take place in the event of an allegation made against a staff member regarding the use of mobile phones/camera equipment and the appropriate course of action taken.

Disciplinary action will be taken if this policy is not followed.