

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection**

### **1.6 Online safety (inc. 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 Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment or exposure to inappropriate materials in the Nursery.

#### **Procedures**

- Kate is responsible for co-ordinating action taken to protect children

#### *Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment*

- Only ICT equipment belonging to the setting is used by staff and children.
- The designated person is responsible for ensuring all ICT equipment is safe and fit for purpose.
- We do not have access to the internet in the Nursery School.
- The designated person ensures that safety settings are set to ensure that inappropriate material cannot be accessed.

#### *Internet access*

- In Nursery children do not have access to the internet and parents are encouraged to ensure that they do not have unsupervised access at home.
- The designated person has overall responsibility for ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded and risk assessments in relation to online safety are completed.
- We encourage parents to ensure that their children are taught the following stay safe principles in an age appropriate way prior to using the internet;
  - only go on line with a grown up
  - be kind on line
  - keep information about me safely
  - only press buttons on the internet to things I understand
  - tell a grown up if something makes me unhappy on the internet
- We recommend that parents also seek to build children's resilience in relation to issues they may face in the online world, and will address issues such as staying safe, having appropriate friendships, asking for help if unsure, not keeping secrets as part of social and emotional development in age appropriate ways.

- If a second-hand computer is purchased or donated to the setting, the designated person will ensure that no inappropriate material is stored on it before children use it.
- All computers for use by children are located in an area clearly visible to staff.
- Children are unable to access social networking sites.
- Staff report any suspicious or offensive material, including material which may incite racism, bullying or discrimination to the Internet Watch Foundation at [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk).
- Suspicions that an adult is attempting to make inappropriate contact with a child on-line is reported to the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk).
- If staff become aware that a child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they discuss this with their parents and refer them to sources of help, such as the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk), or Childline on 0800 1111 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

#### *Email*

- Children are not permitted to use email in the setting. Parents and staff are not normally permitted to use setting equipment to access personal emails.
- Staff do not access personal or work email whilst supervising children.
- Staff send personal information by encrypted email and share information securely at all times.

#### *Mobile phones – children*

- Children do not bring mobile phones or other ICT devices with them to the setting. If a child is found to have a mobile phone or ICT device with them, this is removed and stored in our storage area until the parent collects them at the end of the session.

#### *Mobile phones – staff and visitors*

- Personal mobile phones are not used by our staff on the premises during working hours. They are switched off or turned to silent mode and placed in the Nursery Store Cupboard or left in the owner's car.
- In an emergency, personal mobile phones may be used in the store cupboard or owner's car where there are no children present, with permission from the manager.
- We ensure that the Nursery telephone number is known to our families and other people who may need to contact us in an emergency.
- If members of staff or volunteers take their mobile phones on outings, for use in case of an emergency, they must not make or receive personal calls, or take photographs of children.
- 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 no children are present.
- These rules also apply to the use of work-issued mobiles, and when visiting or supporting staff in other settings.

#### *Cameras and videos*

- Our staff and volunteers must not bring their personal cameras or video recording equipment into the setting.

- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken for valid reasons i.e. to record their learning and development, for displays within the setting, the Nursery School Website and Facebook page or teaching with written permission received by parents (see the Registration form). Such use is monitored by the manager.
- Where parents request permission to photograph or record their own children at special events, general permission is gained from all parents for their children to be included. Parents are advised that they do not have a right to photograph anyone else's child or to upload photos of anyone else's children.
- Children are only photographed or filmed with the consent of their parents. Written permission is obtained when a child joins the Nursery. Parents' wishes for the level of consent is noted for each child. The Head is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of any child who may not be photographed or where there is limited consent. Safeguarding risks are minimised, for example, ensuring children cannot be identified by name or through being photographed in a sweatshirt with the name of their setting on it. Photographs that cause distress, upset or embarrassment will not be taken deliberately and any that may cause this will be deleted immediately.
- Photographs are stored on Kate's Nursery computer and are password protected. Other members of staff do not store any photographs of the children taken in Nursery or during off-site visits

*Social media (includes but is not limited to personal blogs, twitter, facebook, myspace, personal websites, dig, Instagram, snapchat).*

- Staff are advised to manage their personal security settings to ensure that their information is only available to people they choose to share information with.
- Staff should not accept service users, children and parents as friends due to it being a breach of expected professional conduct.
- In the event that staff name the organisation or workplace in any social media they do so in a way that is not detrimental to the organisation or its service users.
- Staff observe confidentiality and refrain from discussing any issues relating to work
- Staff should not share information they would not want children, parents or colleagues to view.
- Staff should report any concerns or breaches to the designated person in their setting.
- Staff avoid personal communication, including on social networking sites, with the children and parents with whom they act in a professional capacity. If a practitioner and family are friendly prior to the child coming into the setting, this information is shared with the manager prior to a child attending and a risk assessment and agreement in relation to boundaries is agreed.

*Electronic learning journals for recording children's progress*

- We do not use electronic journals

*Use and/or distribution of inappropriate images*

- Staff are aware that it is an offence to distribute indecent images. In the event of a concern that a colleague or other person is behaving inappropriately, the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy, in relation to allegations against staff and/or responding to suspicions of abuse, is followed
- Staff are aware that grooming children and young people on line is an offence in its own right and concerns about a colleague's or others' behaviour are reported (as above).

## **Further guidance**

- NSPCC and CEOP *Keeping Children Safe Online* training: [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-expert-training/keeping-children-safe-online-course/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/get-expert-training/keeping-children-safe-online-course/)

## **Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

Safeguarding Children (2013)

Employee Handbook (2012)