



RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

Established 1979

Registered Charity No: 1026005

BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

2 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2PT

Telephone 020 8883 4010

Online safety policy

Policy statement

Our preschool is aware of the growth of the internet and the advantages this can bring to everyday life. However, it is also aware of the dangers it can pose and we strive to support children, staff and families to use the internet safely.

We refer to ['Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations'](#) to support this policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is ultimately responsible for online safety concerns. All concerns need to be raised as soon as possible to **Isabel**.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues such as child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and sexual predation with technology often providing the platform that facilitates harm.

The breadth of issues included within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

1. **Content:** *being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views*
2. **Contact:** *being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults, and*
3. **Conduct:** *personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.*

Within the preschool we aim to keep children, parents and staff safe online. Our safety measures include:

- Ensuring we have appropriate antivirus and anti-spyware software on all devices and update them regularly.
- Ensuring content blockers and filters are on all our devices, e.g., computers, laptops, tablets and any mobile devices.

- Ensuring all devices are password protected and have screen locks. Staff are reminded to use complex strong passwords, keep them safe and secure, change them regularly and not to write them down.
- Monitoring all internet usage across the setting
- Providing secure storage of all preschool devices at the end of each day.
- Ensuring no social media or messaging apps are installed on preschool devices used by staff.
- Reviewing all apps downloaded onto devices ensuring they are age and content appropriate.
- Using only preschool devices to record and /or photograph children in the setting.
- Ensuring that staff do not use personal electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, including mobile phones, smart watches and cameras.
- Reporting emails with inappropriate content to the internet watch foundation (IWF - www.iwf.org.uk)
- Teaching children how to stay safe online in an age-appropriate way.
- Ensuring children never have unsupervised access to the internet.
- Not permitting visitors private access to the preschool Wi-Fi.
- Talking to children about 'stranger danger' and deciding who is a stranger and who is not; comparing people in real life situations to online 'friends'
- Providing training for staff in online safety and understanding how to keep children safe online. We encourage staff and families to complete a free online safety briefing, which can be found at <https://ndna.org.uk/product/free-online-safety-in-early-years/>
- Staff modelling safe practice when using technology with children and ensuring all staff abide by an acceptable use policy such as instructing staff to use the preschool IT equipment for matters relating to the children and their education and care only. No personal use will be tolerated (see Acceptable Internet use policy.)
- Being aware of the need to manage our digital reputation, including the appropriateness of information and content that is posted online, both professionally and personally. This is continually monitored by the preschool's management.
- Staff must not friend or communicate with parents on personal devices or social media accounts
- Ensuring all electronic communications between staff and parents is professional and takes place via the official preschool communication channels, e.g., the setting's email addresses and telephone numbers. This is to protect staff, children and parents
- Signposting parents to appropriate sources of support regarding online safety at home.

If any concerns arise relating to online safety, then we will follow our Safeguarding children and child protection policy and report all online safety concerns to the DSL.

The DSL will make sure that:

- All staff know how to report a problem and when to escalate a concern, including the process for external referral

- All concerns are logged, assessed and actioned in accordance with the preschool's safeguarding procedures
- Parents are supported to develop their knowledge of online safety issues concerning their children via email bulletins with relevant information or training opportunities.
- Parents are offered support to help them talk about online safety with their children using appropriate resources
- Parents are signposted to appropriate sources of help regarding online safety at home and are fully supported to understand how to report an online safety concern
- Staff have access to information and guidance for supporting online safety, both personally and professionally
- Under no circumstances should any member of staff, either at work or in any other place, make, deliberately download, possess, or distribute material they know to be illegal, for example child sexual abuse material.